FAMILY

THE NIB

SOMETIMES WHEN I'M DRAWING WITH MY DAUGHTER, I THINK ABOUT **HOW OUR COUNTRY THROWS CHILDREN INTO CAGES.**

Last year, the Trump administration's decision to start separating asylum seekers at the border sparked a level of public outrage that the president's violations of other norms had not. Hurting families, it seemed, was something we simply wouldn't tolerate.

When my wife and I had our first kid in 2017, I started to understand how people become pro-family nuts—obsessed with schools, neighborhoods, parenting strategies, and above all else, "protecting the children."

Children become an extension of yourself and radically realign your priorities. They can infinitely expand your love and empathy but also draw your sense of priority into a tight circle—you must care for them above all else. You might even travel thousands of miles and submit yourself to detention in order for them to have a better life. Or, if you feel that your family is threatened by others, you might be willing to tolerate any moral obscenity to protect them.

There is a war on families right now. Immigrants and refugees are caged and torn apart in an effort to dissuade others from following them. Abortion rights—the ability to decide when and with whom to start a family—are set to be overturned at the Supreme Court level. The rights of gay, queer, and trans people are under renewed assault. The grim economic outlook for younger people makes it a sensible option to delay or abandon plans to start a family.

All of these problems are exacerbated or ignored by the very people who claim the mantle of "family values" for political gain. Their motivations aren't about helping families so much as they are about limiting the word's definition in a society that affords privilege and preference to being considered part of one.

In this issue, we talk all things family. Family is that fundamental social unit that—for better or worse—has shaped most of us into who we are. We're pro-family at *The Nib*.

We're for families being defined broadly and including nontraditional arrangements. We're for abortions and healthcare, for parental leave, for kids to be raised the same regardless of gender and to not be caged. Just basic family values stuff.

We're all part of families, large and small. Family is whom we provide and care for above all else—and whom we admit to that inner circle. If our society extends that concept to all women, queer people, the unmarried, to immigrants and refugees, we might have to treat them like family. Which is to say, fully human beings.

Politicians who are against these things? No thank you. I'm a family man. Can't have my child growing up in such a world.

MATT BORS

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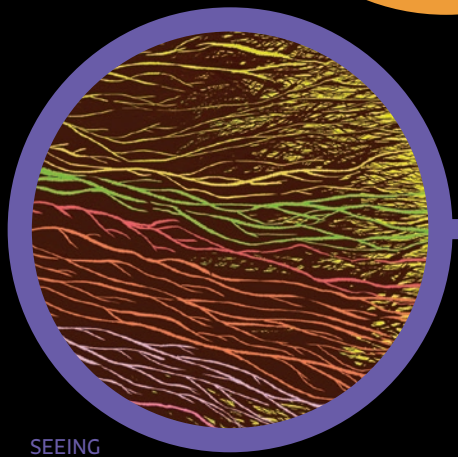

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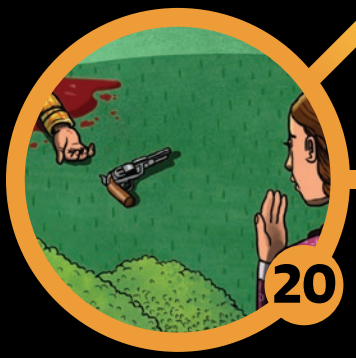
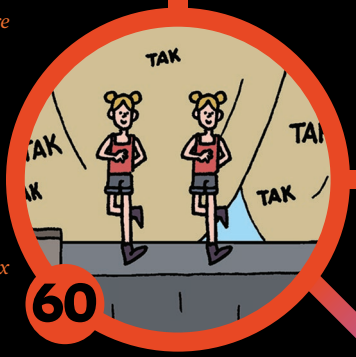
BOUND TOGETHER BY A FAMILY THREAD

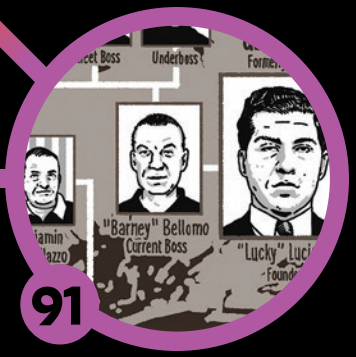


WHAT'S BLUE AND GRAY AND RED ALL OVER?

ALISON BECHDEL TALKS ABOUT WRITING MEMOIR



TWINS TAKE OVER TOWN

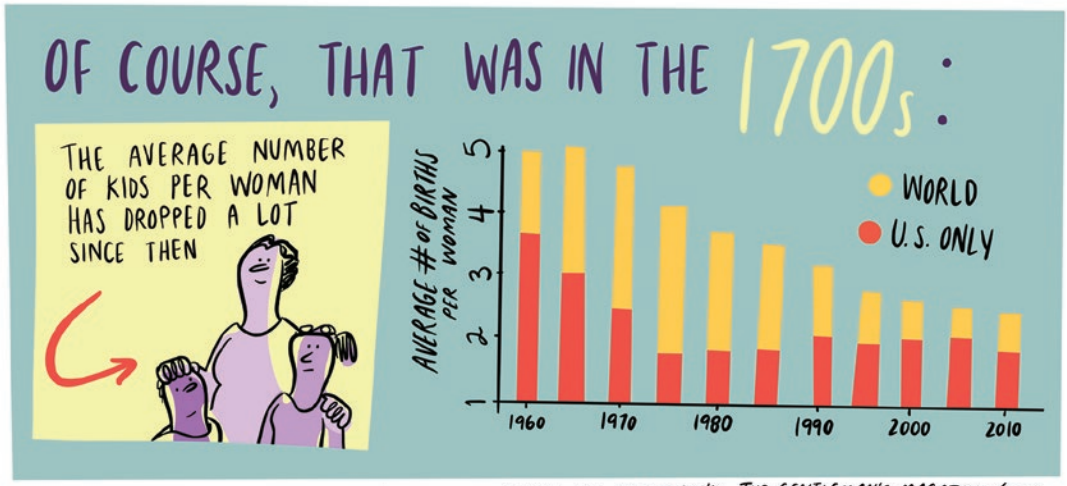


COSA NOSTREE

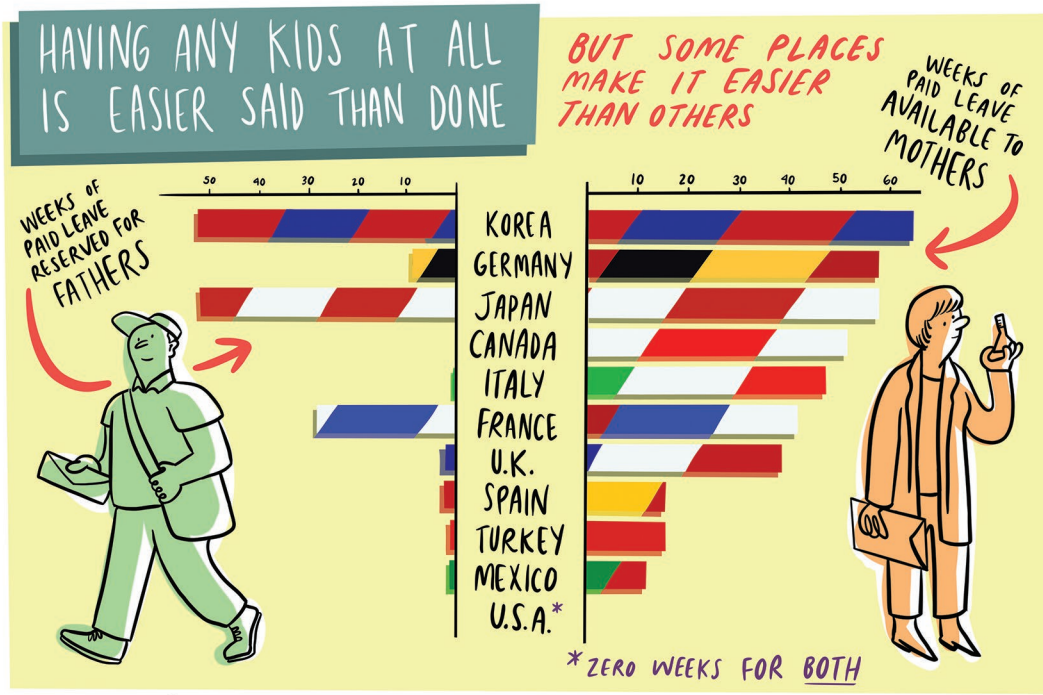
The Nib Bureau of Statistics

Births, adoptions, maternity leave, and Neanderthals.

By Olivia Walch



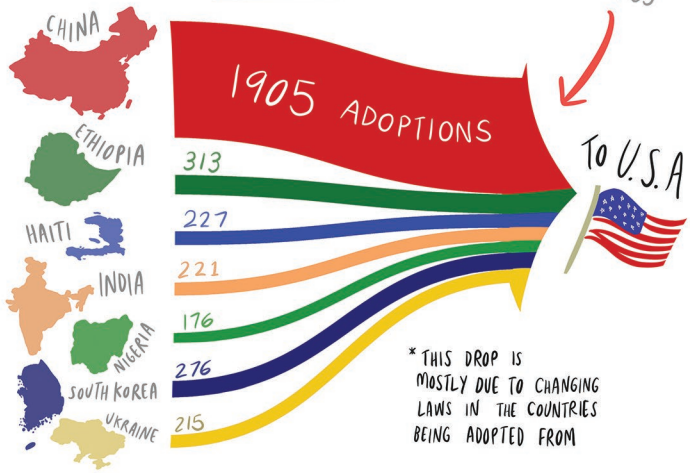
SOURCES: THE WORLD BANK, *THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE* (1783)



SOURCE: 2017 OECD DATA

ADOPTION, LIKE FAMILY SIZE, IS DECLINING IN THE U.S.

THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION: 4,714 CHILDREN WERE ADOPTED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES BY AMERICAN FAMILIES IN 2017, DOWN FROM 22,991 IN 2004*



SOURCE: U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

HUMANS LEFT AFRICA MORE THAN ONCE BACK IN THE DAY*

* BEFORE 60,000 YEARS AGO

SOURCES: BAE ET AL. (2017) *SCIENCE*, MOODLEY ET AL. (2009) *SCIENCE*, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, TE ARA: THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEW ZEALAND, GILBERT ET AL. (2008) *SCIENCE*

...AND THEY INTERBRED WITH NEANDERTHALS AND DENISOVANS ON THEIR JOURNEYS
4,500 - 1,000 YEARS AGO
19 - 15,000 YEARS AGO
H. SAPIENS MIX WITH NEANDERTHALS
H. SAPIENS + NEANDERTHALS MIX WITH DENISOVANS
14,000 YEARS AGO
1,400 YEARS AGO
2,000 YEARS AGO
1,300 YEARS AGO
<1,000 YEARS AGO

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Illustration by JooHee Yoon from "Japan's Vegetable-Eating Men"

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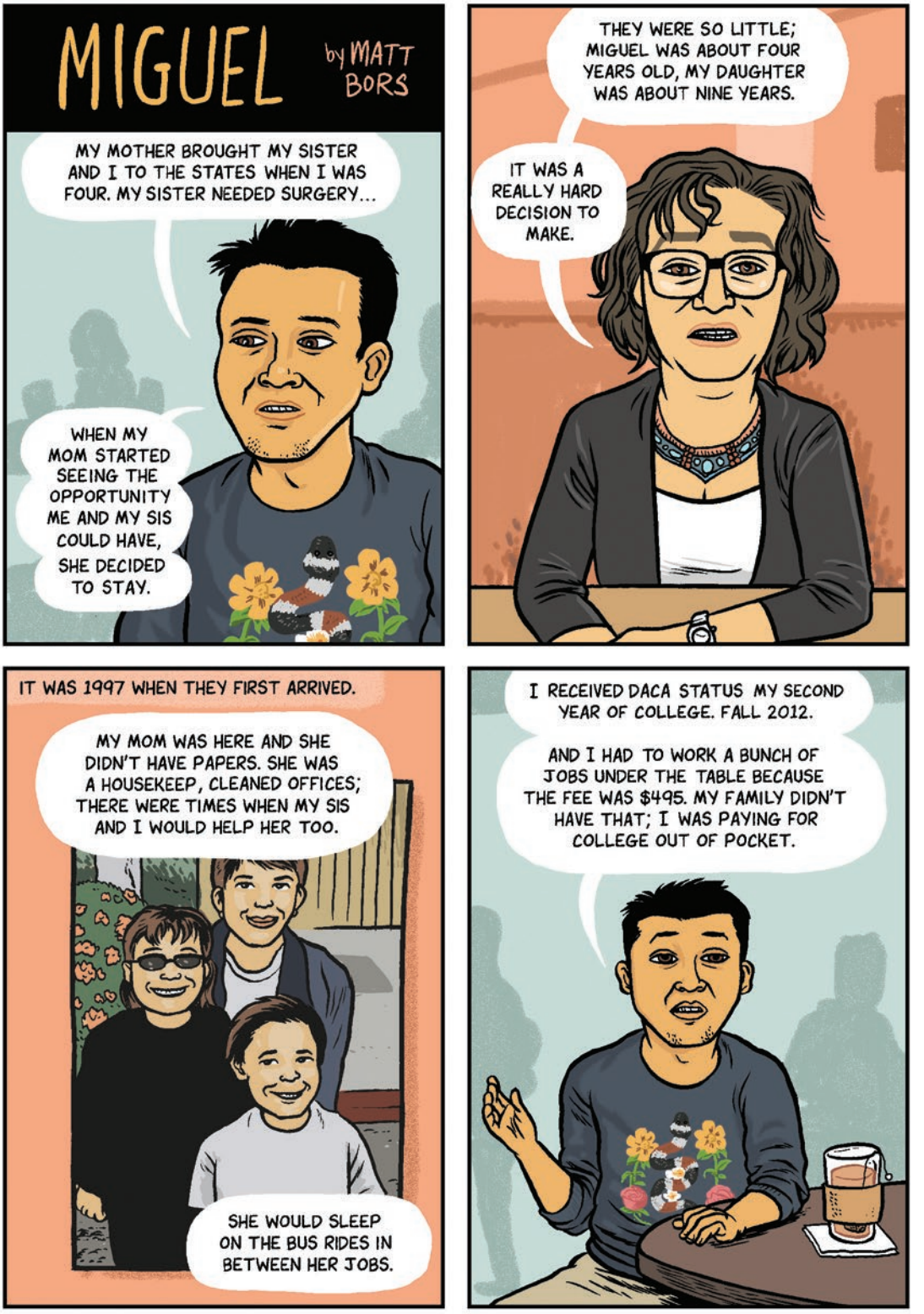
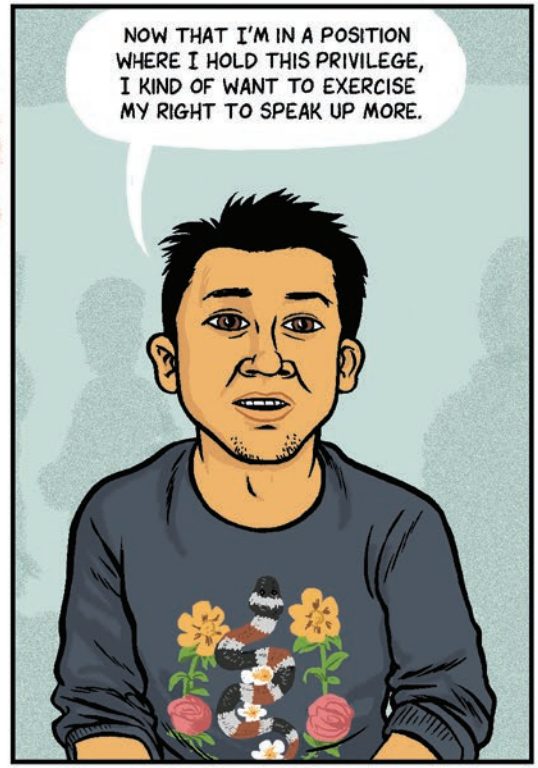
Dispatches


MIGUEL
by MATT BORS
MY MOTHER BROUGHT MY SISTER AND I TO THE STATES WHEN I WAS FOUR. MY SISTER NEEDED SURGERY...
WHEN MY MOM STARTED SEEING THE OPPORTUNITY ME AND MY SIS COULD HAVE, SHE DECIDED TO STAY.
THEY WERE SO LITTLE; MIGUEL WAS ABOUT FOUR YEARS OLD, MY DAUGHTER WAS ABOUT NINE YEARS.
IT WAS A REALLY HARD DECISION TO MAKE.
IT WAS 1997 WHEN THEY FIRST ARRIVED.
MY MOM WAS HERE AND SHE DIDN'T HAVE PAPERS. SHE WAS A HOUSEKEEP, CLEANED OFFICES; THERE WERE TIMES WHEN MY SIS AND I WOULD HELP HER TOO.
SHE WOULD SLEEP ON THE BUS RIDES IN BETWEEN HER JOBS.
I RECEIVED DACA STATUS MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE. FALL 2012.
AND I HAD TO WORK A BUNCH OF JOBS UNDER THE TABLE BECAUSE THE FEE WAS $495. MY FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE THAT; I WAS PAYING FOR COLLEGE OUT OF POCKET.

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) BEGAN UNDER OBAMA IN 2012 AND GRANTED TWO-YEAR WORK PERMITS FOR ALMOST 700,000 UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT HERE AS CHILDREN.
MIGUEL WAS ABLE TO WORK LEGALLY UNDER DACA AND RECEIVED PERMANENT RESIDENCY IN 2014.

WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCING THE PHASEOUT OF DACA IN 2017, THE FUTURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED ALMOST THEIR ENTIRE LIVES IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOW VERY UNCERTAIN.
HOPEFULLY THERE'S A WAY TO MANAGE THIS MORE AS HUMAN BEINGS WHO DESERVE A CHANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES, JUST LIKE MIGUEL HAD.

I'VE BEEN A PERMANENT RESIDENT FOR FOUR YEARS NOW AND I'M GOING TO BE APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP IN A YEAR. I HAVE COUSINS WHO DON'T HAVE PATHS TO CITIZENSHIP, NOT EVEN PERMANENT RESIDENCY.
TO SOME DEGREE I NOW HAVE A CERTAIN PRIVILEGE THAT OTHERS DON'T IN MY OWN FAMILY.


NOW THAT I'M IN A POSITION WHERE I HOLD THIS PRIVILEGE, I KIND OF WANT TO EXERCISE MY RIGHT TO SPEAK UP MORE.

HEREDITARY · BY EMILY FLAKE
MY FAMILY HISTORY HAS A BRIGHT, SOUR THREAD OF MADNESS RUNNING THROUGH IT.
SCHIZOPHRENIA, PSYCHOTIC BREAKS, OCD, DEPRESSION, ANXIETY. WE CELEBRATE THE ENTIRE DSM-5.
MY MOM, CA. 1995. RAVING ON A PUBLIC BENCH ABOUT WEATHER SYSTEMS - I MEAN, GO BIG OR GO HOME, AMI RITE?
ME, I'M FINE. A LITTLE SAD SOMETIMES, THAT'S ALL.
LOOK, BEING SO DISGUSTED WITH YOUR OWN STUPIDITY AND LACK OF WORTH THAT YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T MOVE IS NORMAL.
I'M FINE.
BUT JUST BECAUSE A THREAD'S NOT SHOWING DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T THERE.
I HAVE MY MOTHER'S HANDS AND HER HIPS.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN ANYTHING.
I USED TO LOOK FOR THIS THREAD IN MYSELF. NOW I LOOK FOR IT IN MY DAUGHTER.
I WORRY.
SOMETIMES SHE CRIES INCONSOLABLY AND SAYS HEARTBREAKING AND FUCKED UP THINGS.
I'M STUPID! I'M USELESS! I WANT TO GO HOME TO GOD!

THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT MY FAMILY I WISH I COULD SCOOP OUT OF MYSELF, SO MUCH I DON'T WANT TO PASS ON OR CARRY AROUND WITH ME. SOMETIMES THAT LEAVES ME FEELING HOLLOW. INCOMPLETE. FRAGMENTED.

MOON CHILD

By Teddy Hose

I was twelve when my mom was terribly injured in a gun accident, suddenly bringing my father home from his missionary work to take care of her.

Before then, I'd only seen him a few weeks out of the year. The church made a virtue of fathers neglecting family for missionary work.

With Mom gone much of the time too, my siblings and I were raised by a rotation of different church members who would live with us for about two to three years at a time.

Some of them we'd never see again.

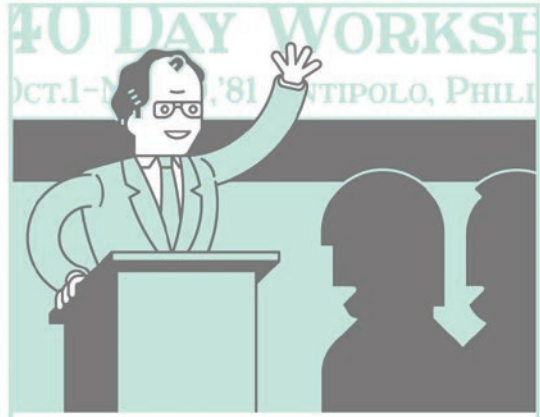
This was the way many children were raised in Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

*hdhstudy.com/1979/state-leaders-conference-directions

Outsiders called us "Moonies"—a cult known for the spectacle of mass marriages.

Sun Myung Moon, from Korea, claimed to be the Second Coming of Christ and gained thousands of followers around the world.

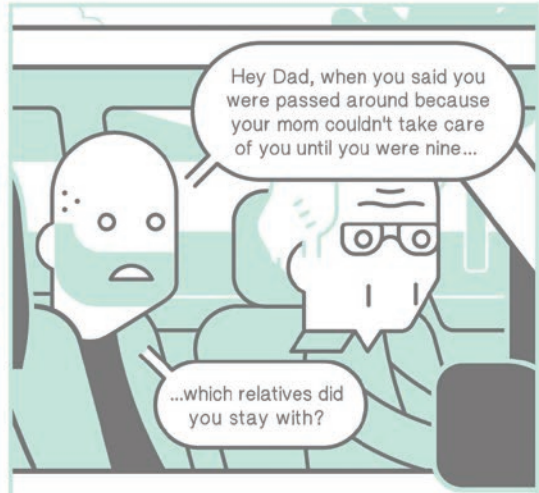
His extreme wealth and power came from devout members, coerced on long workshop retreats to leave their past lives and recruited into full-time, working Church membership.



My father was a charismatic speaker and an early member in the American chapter. His resulting status kept him in high demand for Church missions around the world.

But after the accident, our family drifted away from the Church.

Many years later, I began to grow curious about my dad's own childhood.



History had repeated itself, driven by a religion that recruited people away from their biological families through a practice called "love bombing."

He wasn't really equipped to be a father, but he never walked away from Mom when they fell from grace.

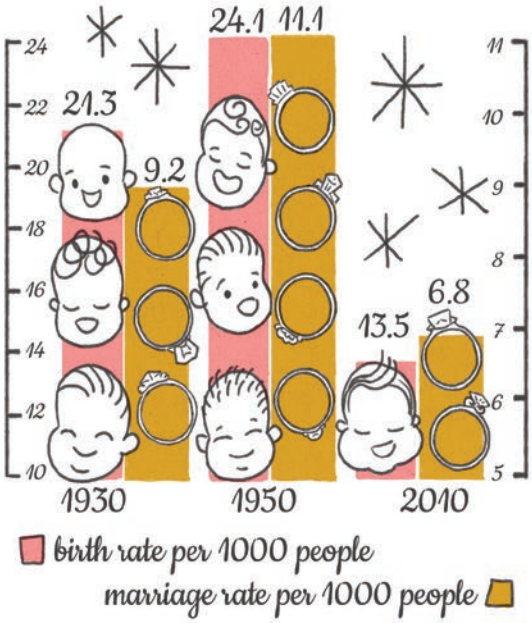
Nuclear Decay

by Vreni

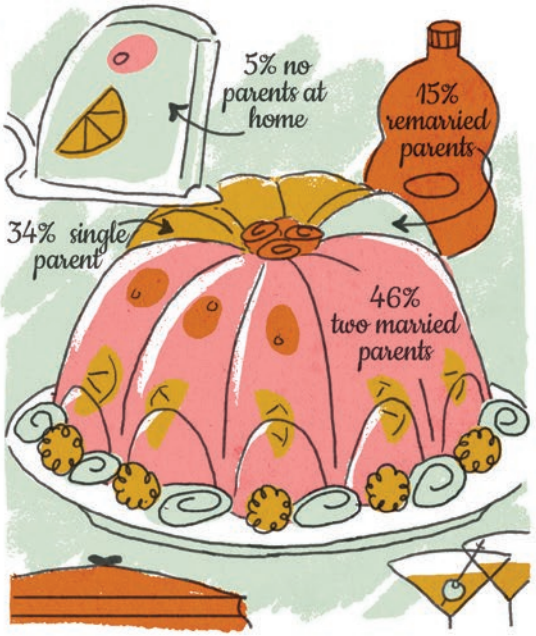
This is a nuclear family, the default shorthand for family here in the US and in most of the world.

The word *nuclear* does not refer to the weapon, but both come from the same Latin word, *nux*, which means *nut* or *core*.

This type of family became popularized in the 1950s, when fertility and marriage rates were both abnormally high.



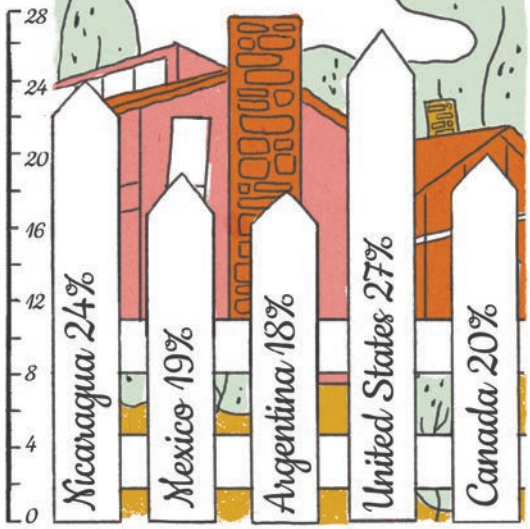
But by 2014 only 46% of children in the US lived in a family with straight, married parents who had never been divorced.



Extended families, where grandparents and sometimes aunts, uncles, and cousins live under one roof, are on the rise.

After nuclear families, single-parent families are the most common, with 34% of kids living with just one parent.

Single-parent families are more common in the US than almost anywhere else in the Americas.



So when government policy on family is enacted, maybe it should be designed for everyone, not just the minority of Americans that currently live in that old-fashioned nuclear unit.

THE MORNING ROUTINE
BY JOE DECIE

SURE, IT DOESN'T LOOK ORGANIZED, BUT WE'RE EXPERTS AT THIS.

SOME FAMILIES GREET THE DAY WITH QUIET MEDITATION, LEISURELY BREAKFASTS, CONVERSATION.

OURS SEEMS TO THRIVE ON CHAOS, MILD PANIC, AND DISASTER.

THIS IS HOW WE FUNCTION BEST. IT'S A TRIED AND TESTED FORMULA.

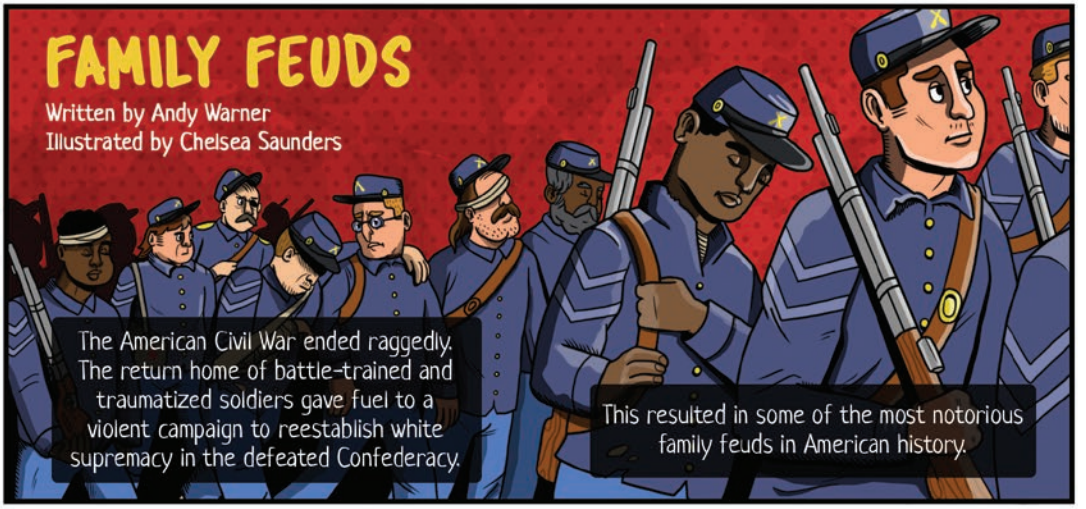
ZERO PREPARATION AND EVERYTHING LEFT TO THE LAST MINUTE.

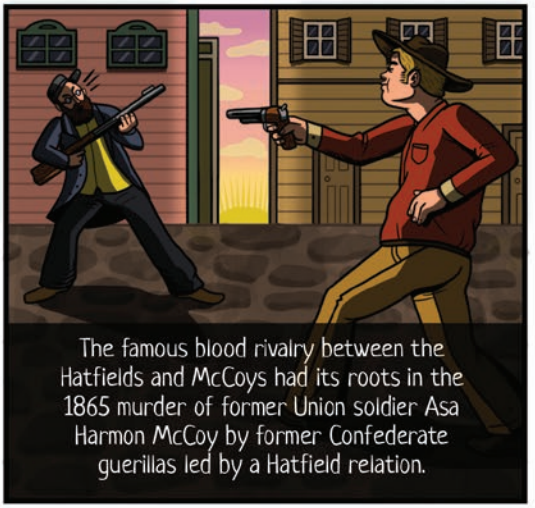
MOSTLY JUST SHOUTING.

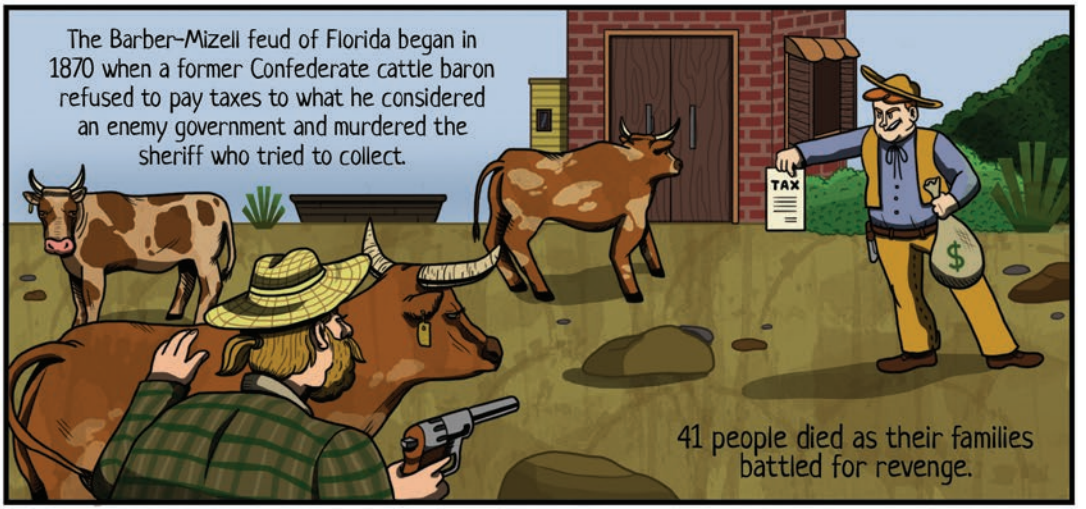
I WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING.

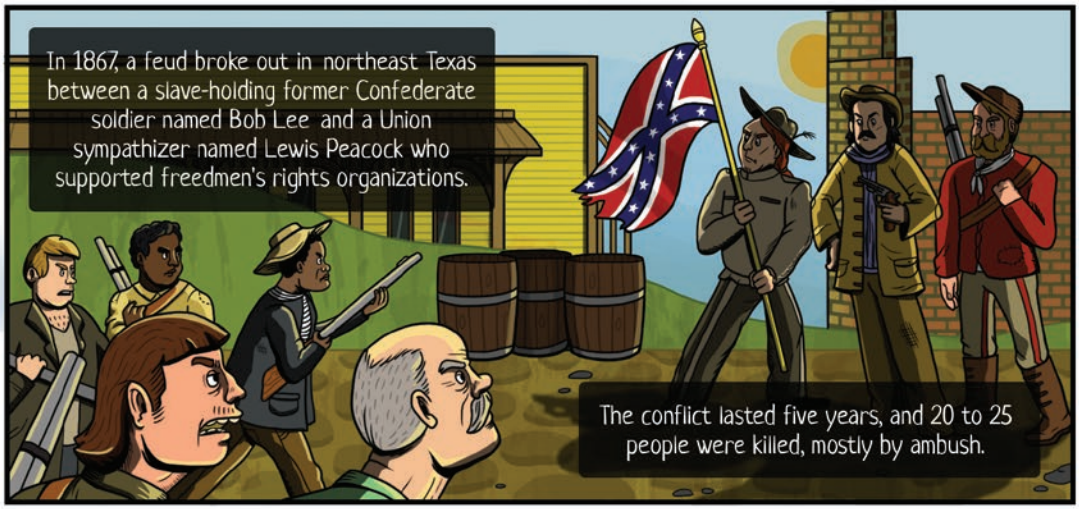
FAMILY FEUDS

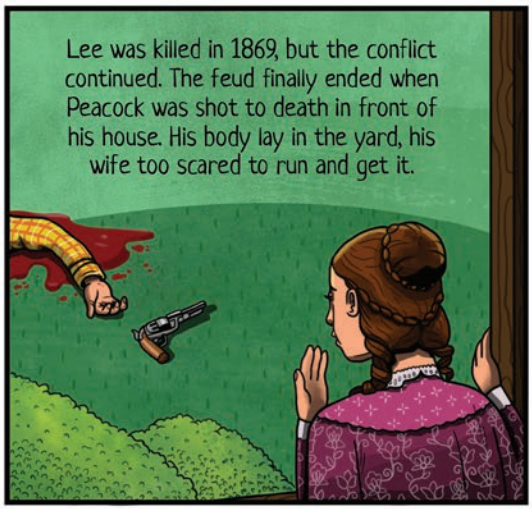
Written by Andy Warner
Illustrated by Chelsea Saunders

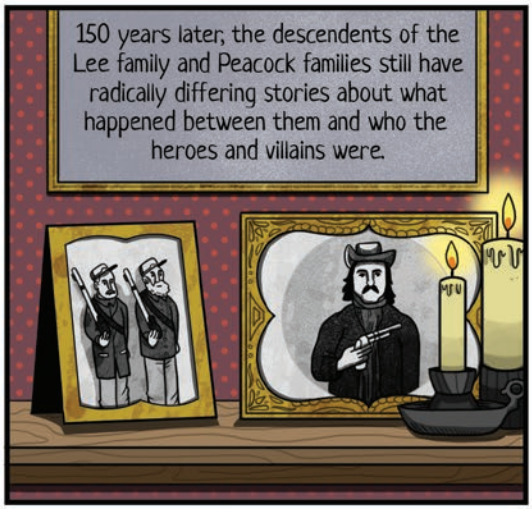






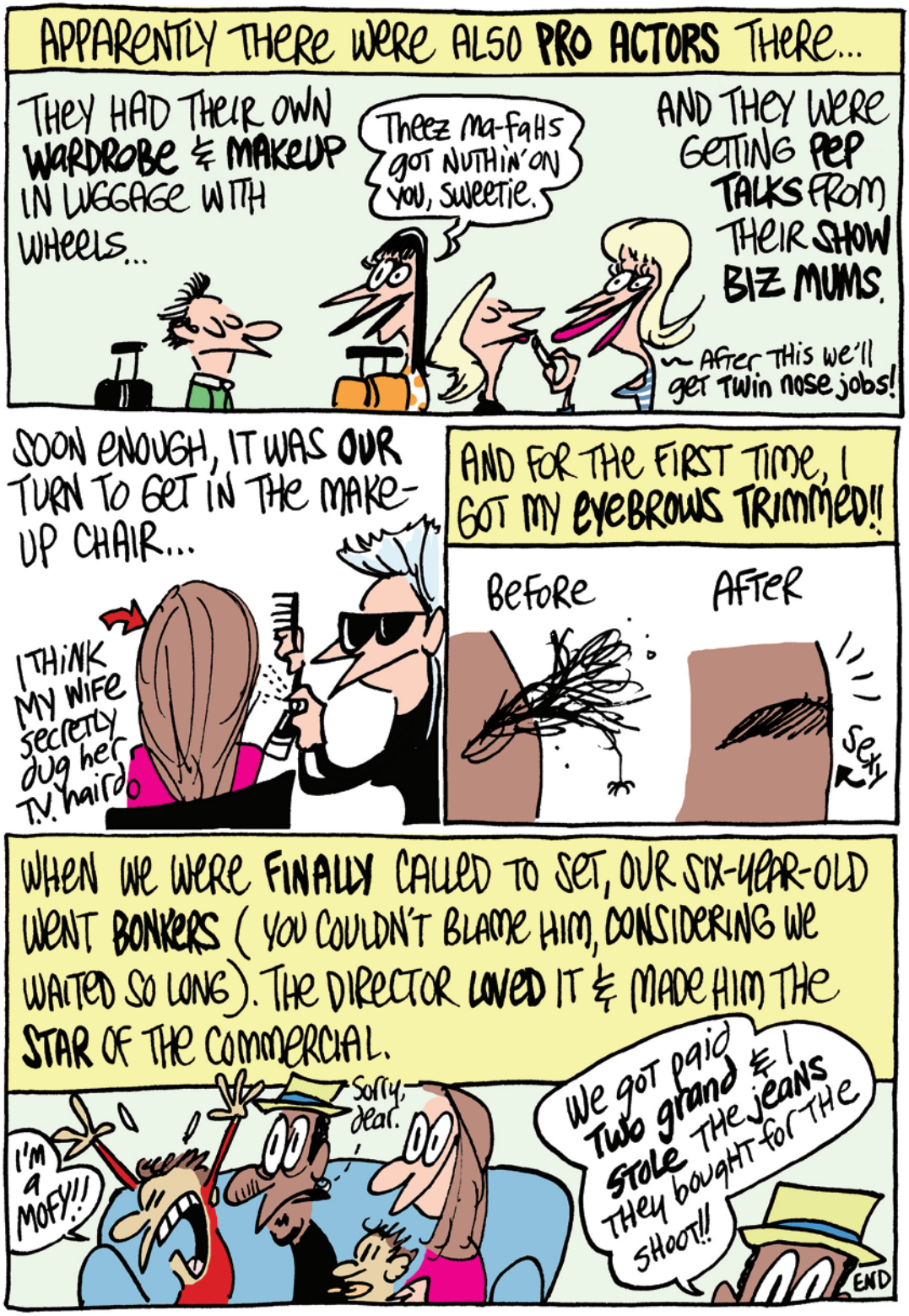

In 1867, a feud broke out in northeast Texas between a slave-holding former Confederate soldier named Bob Lee and a Union sympathizer named Lewis Peacock who supported freedmen's rights organizations.
The conflict lasted five years, and 20 to 25 people were killed, mostly by ambush.


Lee was killed in 1869, but the conflict continued. The feud finally ended when Peacock was shot to death in front of his house. His body lay in the yard, his wife too scared to run and get it.


150 years later, the descendents of the Lee family and Peacock families still have radically differing stories about what happened between them and who the heroes and villains were.

Capt.
Bob Lee
June 1869
Peacock's body, once it was dragged from the yard, was buried in an unmarked grave. Lee's grave, however, is prominent and notes his service in the Confederate army.
It has often been dug up by treasure hunters searching for his riches.

MODERN FAMILY!!
BY KEITH KNIGHT
We're looking for "Modern" families & YOU fit the bill!!
THE MOST PRIZED SOUVENIR OF MY FAMILY'S 8 YEARS LIVING IN LOS ANGELES WAS A COMMERCIAL WE SHOT FOR THE SHOW MODERN FAMILY.
Black
White
Cute mixed kids
THEY TOOK PHOTOS OF US DURING OUR INTERVIEW & HAD US FILL OUT QUESTIONNAIRES.
Where do you shop for clothes?
1. Macys
2. Nord's
THE NEXT DAY WE HAD A WARDROBE FITTING WITH CLOTHES THEY PURCHASED.
Do we get to keep this stuff?
Nope.
WE HAD TO ARRIVE BY 7AM ON THE DAY OF THE SHOOT.
I.D. please.
We're here for the MOFY SHOOT!!
ON SET, THERE WERE A ½ DOZEN "MOFYS" AS THEY CALL THEM.
Two Moms
Asian/ Latino
Five Dads


APPARENTLY THERE WERE ALSO PRO ACTORS THERE...
THEY HAD THEIR OWN WARDROBE & MAKEUP IN LUGGAGE WITH WHEELS...
Theez ma-fahs got nuthin' on you, sweetie.
AND THEY WERE GETTING PEP TALKS FROM THEIR SHOW BIZ MUMS.
After this we'll get twin nose jobs!
SOON ENOUGH, IT WAS OUR TURN TO GET IN THE MAKE-UP CHAIR...
I THINK MY WIFE SECRETLY DUG HER T.V. HAIRDO
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I GOT MY EYEBROWS TRIMMED!!
BEFORE
AFTER
SEXY
WHEN WE WERE FINALLY CALLED TO SET, OUR SIX-YEAR-OLD WENT BONKERS (YOU COULDN'T BLAME HIM, CONSIDERING WE WAITED SO LONG). THE DIRECTOR LOVED IT & MADE HIM THE STAR OF THE COMMERCIAL.
I'M A MOFY!!
Sorry, dear.
We got paid Two grand & I STOLE THE jeans THEY bought for THE SHOOT!!
END

FIELD_ OF_ VISION

A filmmaker-driven documentary unit that commissions and creates original short and feature-length nonfiction films about developing and ongoing stories around the globe.

We produce cinematic work that tells the stories of our world from new perspectives.

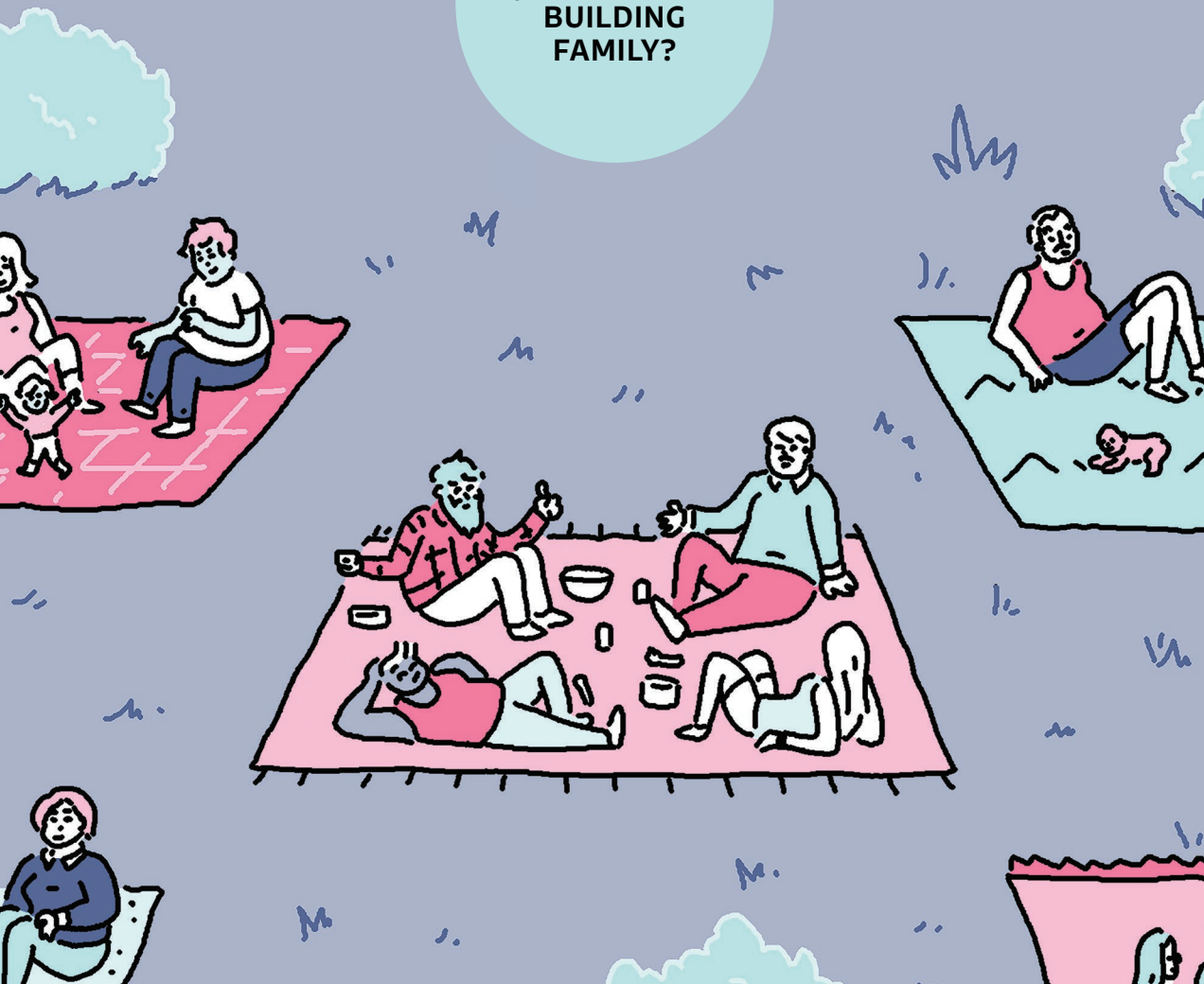
fieldofvision.org

Illustration by Andy Warner

THE RESPONSE

Each issue we ask four cartoonists a question. For our family issue, we wanted to know how queer artists define what family means.

HOW ARE QUEER ARTISTS BUILDING FAMILY?



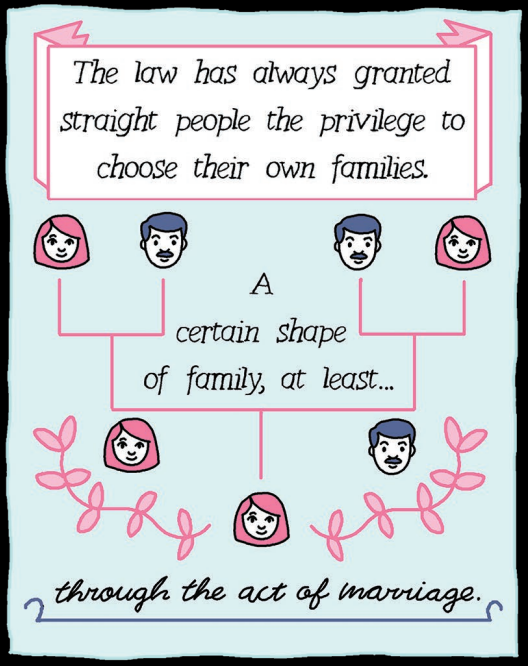
L. Nichols

AT FIRST GLANCE, OUR FAMILY MIGHT SEEM LIKE A TYPICAL HETERONORMATIVE FAMILY — HUSBAND, WIFE, TWO KIDS — BUT THIS ISN'T THE WHOLE STORY.
MY WIFE AND I BOTH IDENTIFY AS QUEER (OF SOME VARIETY), BUT SINCE I TRANSITIONED WE HAVE LOST THAT VISIBILITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
...HELLO??
DOES ANYONE SEE US?
HAVING KIDS COMPOUNDS THIS AND DEALING WITH GENDERED ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT CHILDCARE, WORK, LIFE, BIOLOGY, ETC. IS EXHAUSTING.
WERE YOU LIKE THIS AS A KID?
-:- SIGH -:-
NOT AGAIN...
...ACTUALLY, I'M TRANS! WE USED A SPERM DONOR
I NEVER USED TO SEEK OUT OTHER QUEER FOLK, BUT THESE DAYS I'M DESPERATE. SOMETIMES I WISH WE HAD A SECRET SIGNAL WE COULD SEND OUT.
HI!
...DO I KNOW HIM??
OR AT THE VERY LEAST, I WISH I COULD FIND MORE FAMILIES LIKE MINE.

Luke Healy

I have heard it said with pride:

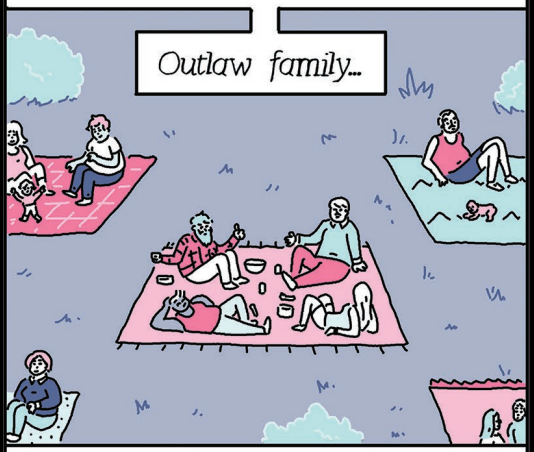
...though that pride sometimes sounds like bitter consolation.



Sometimes the idea of a chosen family seems mawkish and sad to me.

Queer people arranged in straight lines.

More often it seems courageous.



...that points a straightened middle finger at the "real thing."

Robyn Jordan

Archie Bongiovanni

The Nib Interview

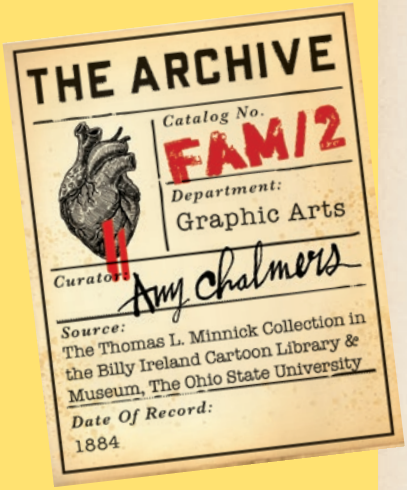
Fun Home author Alison Bechdel talks to Nicole Georges about how writing a memoir changed her family and herself.

IN 2013, I WROTE MY OWN GRAPHIC MEMOIR ABOUT QUEERNESS & A FAMILY FULL OF SECRETS, *CALLING DR. LAURA.*
Drawing my book ushered in an era of honesty in my family.
ALISON WAS A HUGE HELP TO ME DURING THE WRITING PROCESS.
SHE REINFORCED THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING, EVEN IF IT MEANT BETRAYING AN INSTILLED FAMILY CREED OF BURYING ALL SHAME.
My sisters felt like they had hard evidence of their childhood.

That's why I draw, I think.
I didn't feel seen, so I had to reflect my own experience back.
That's it!
As a child, I felt like I needed a record for how things really were, because I was gaslit.

Things were unstable.
I did that, too!
And I suppose for the same reason.
No one was seeing me.
And certainly no one was seeing me as a child.

Now I think of my creative family as my extended family.
But being a part of a real-life daily organism is hard for me.
For many years, *Dykes to Watch Out For* characters were sort of my family.
It always amazed me that people thought they were real people.
♥ng



Divorce

In the years following the Civil War, divorce rates rose quickly, and many state laws became more lenient to couples seeking separation. In this centerfold for the December 17, 1884 issue of *Puck*, cartoonist Frederick Burr Opper imagines a chaotic, crass scene resulting from Illinois's lax divorce laws. One state over, people were flocking to the "divorce mill state" of Indiana, where new provisions meant they could divorce quickly and without humiliation. Critics saw this trend as a threat to families and values, and portrayed hopeful divorcees as impulsive, reckless, and morally corrupt.

Amy Chalmers
Amy Chalmers was the program assistant for the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum. She is now art curator for the South Carolina State Museum.

PUCK.

MAYER, MERKEL & OTTMANN, LITH. 21-25 WARREN ST. N.Y.

FOR REFRESHMENTS AND DIVORCE!"

EVERY RAILROAD DEPOT IN CHICAGO! TIME SAVED, AND EVERYBODY HAPPY!

the INKWELL

It's A Family thing.

Illustration by Erlend Sandøy

The Inkwell is our new membership program to sustain *The Nib* and keep us producing the best nonfiction and political cartoons.

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THE NIB

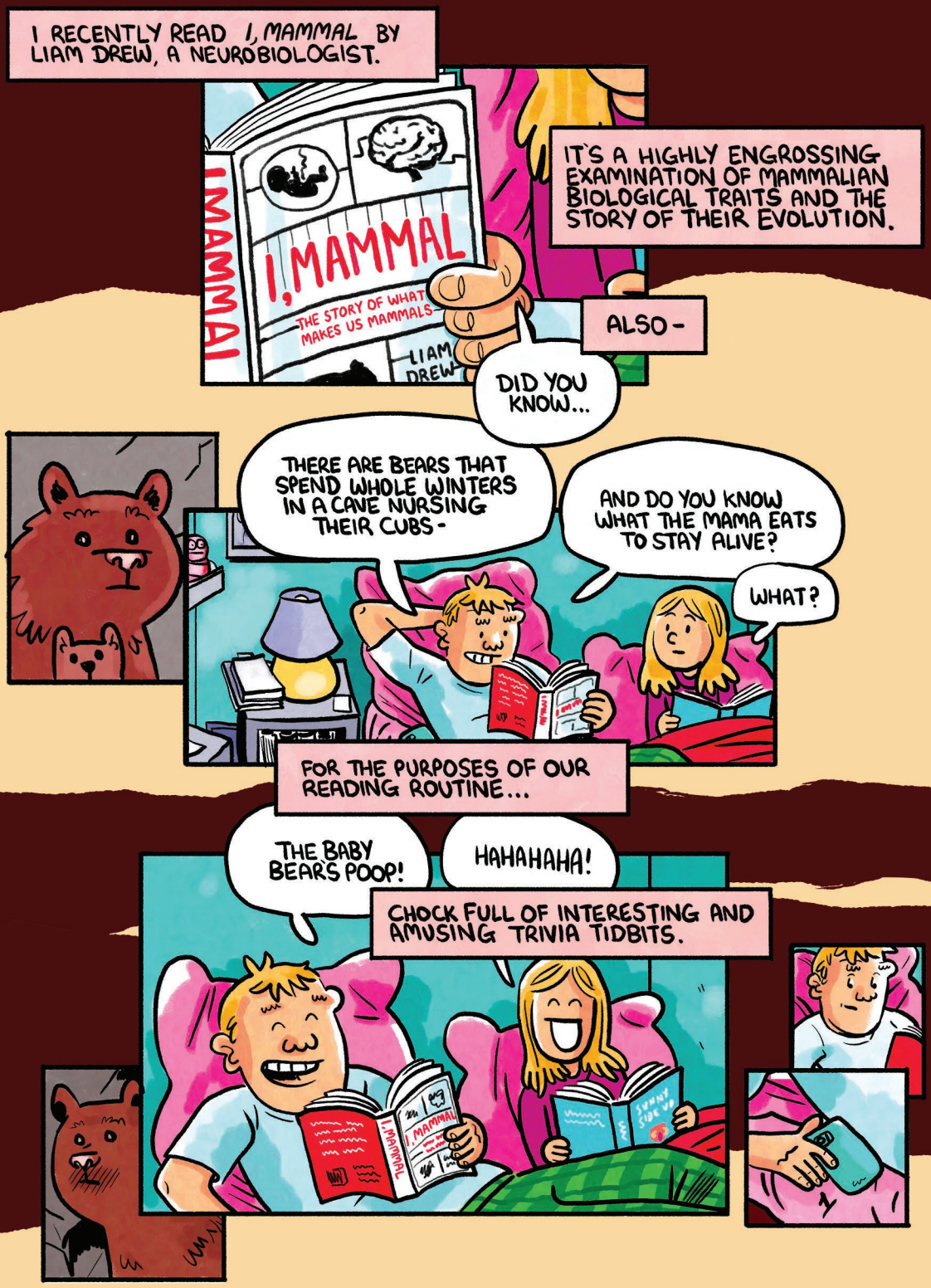
Features

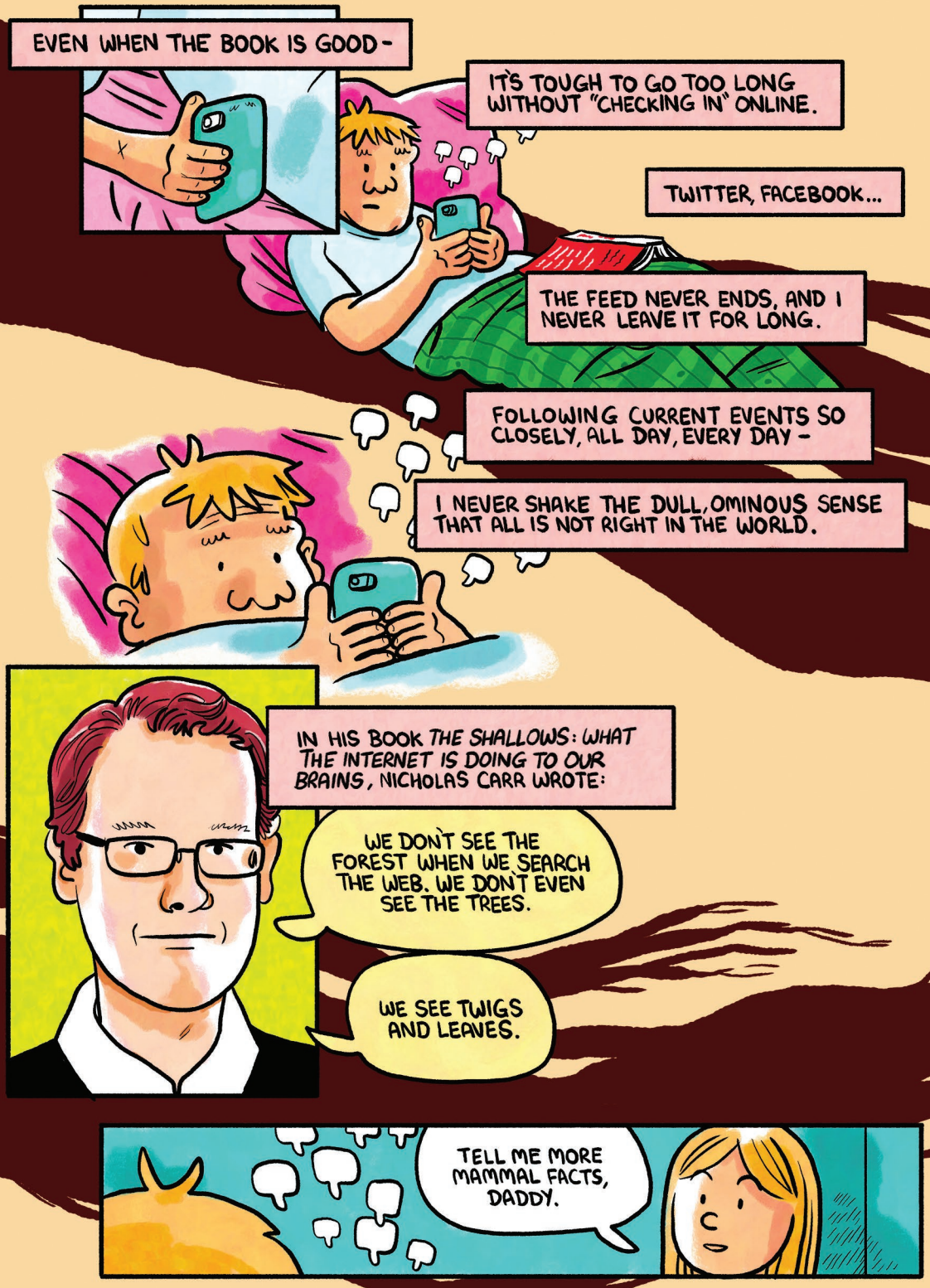
I, GE

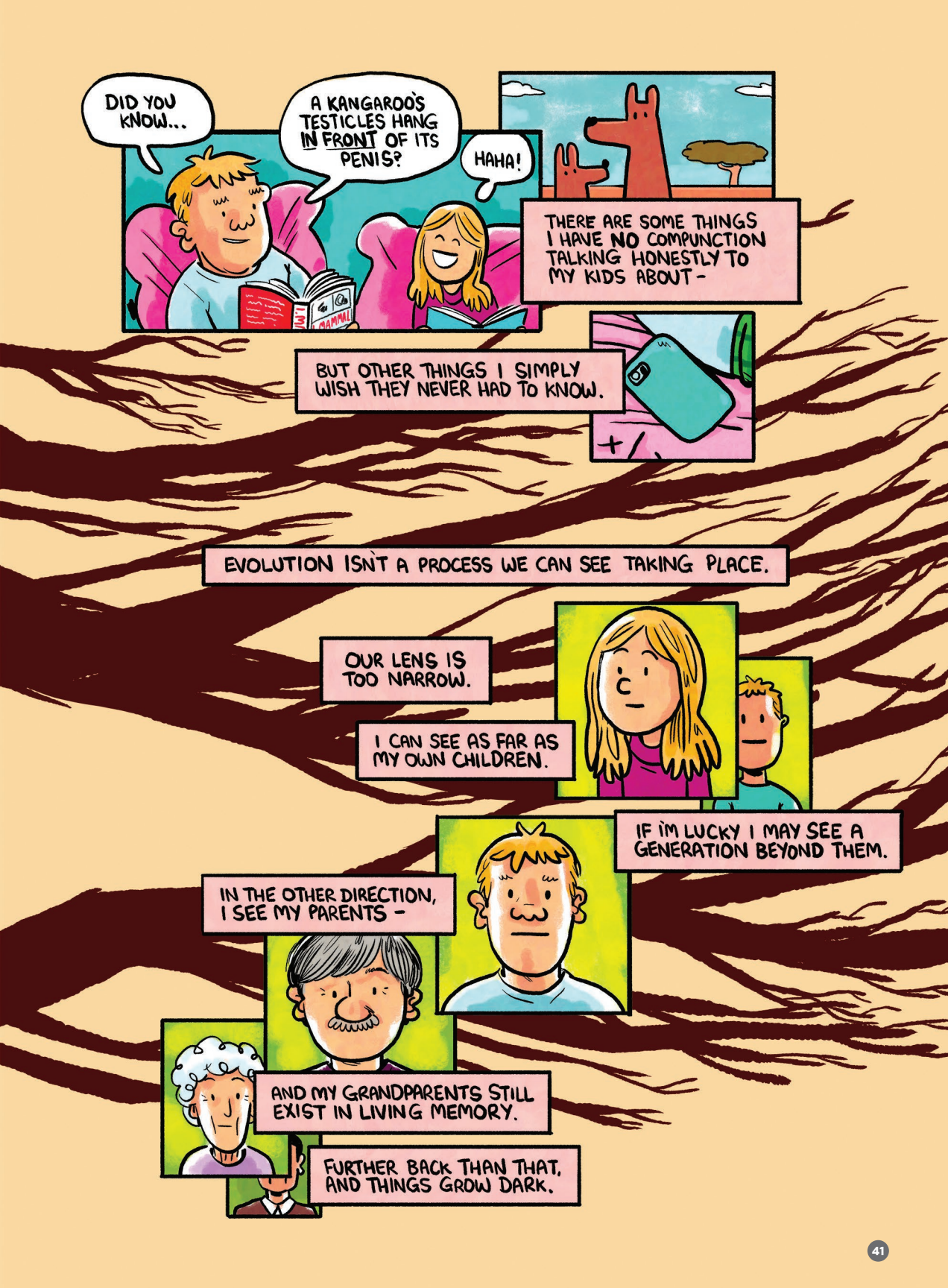
by Mike Dawson

RM LINE
Seeing the forest for the family trees

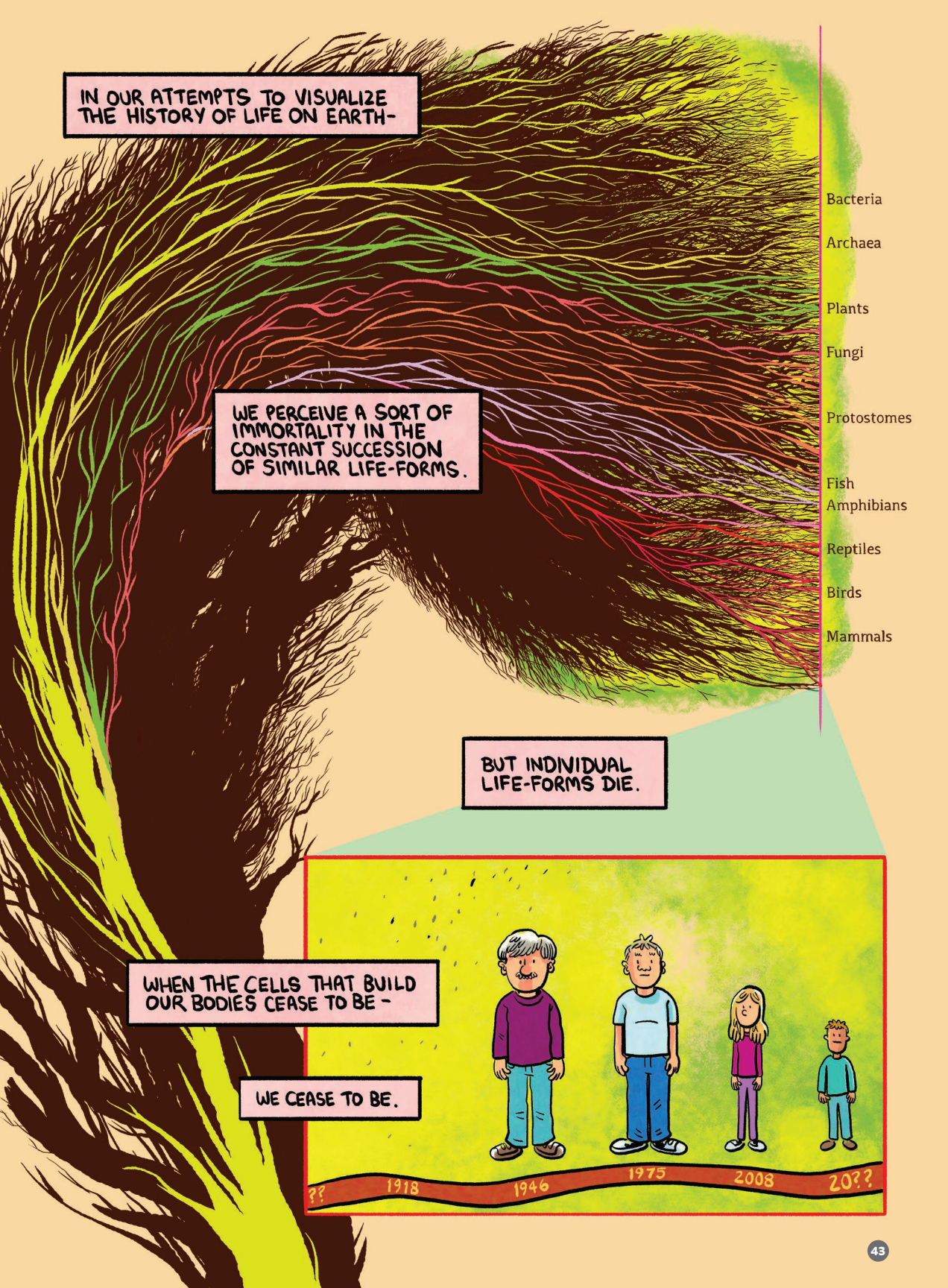
DID YOU KNOW...
THE MILK OF THE HOODED SEAL-
I MAMMAL
SUNNY SIDE UP
IS AS THICK AS MAYONNAISE?!
EW! HAHA!
AND IT TASTES "FISHY"?
HA HA!
LATELY, MY DAUGHTER AND I HAVE BEEN SITTING TOGETHER TO READ EVERY NIGHT.
I LOVE THIS NEW ROUTINE.
IT HELPS HER KEEP UP WITH HER SCHOOLWORK-
AND IT HELPS ME WITH MY OWN FOCUS ISSUES...

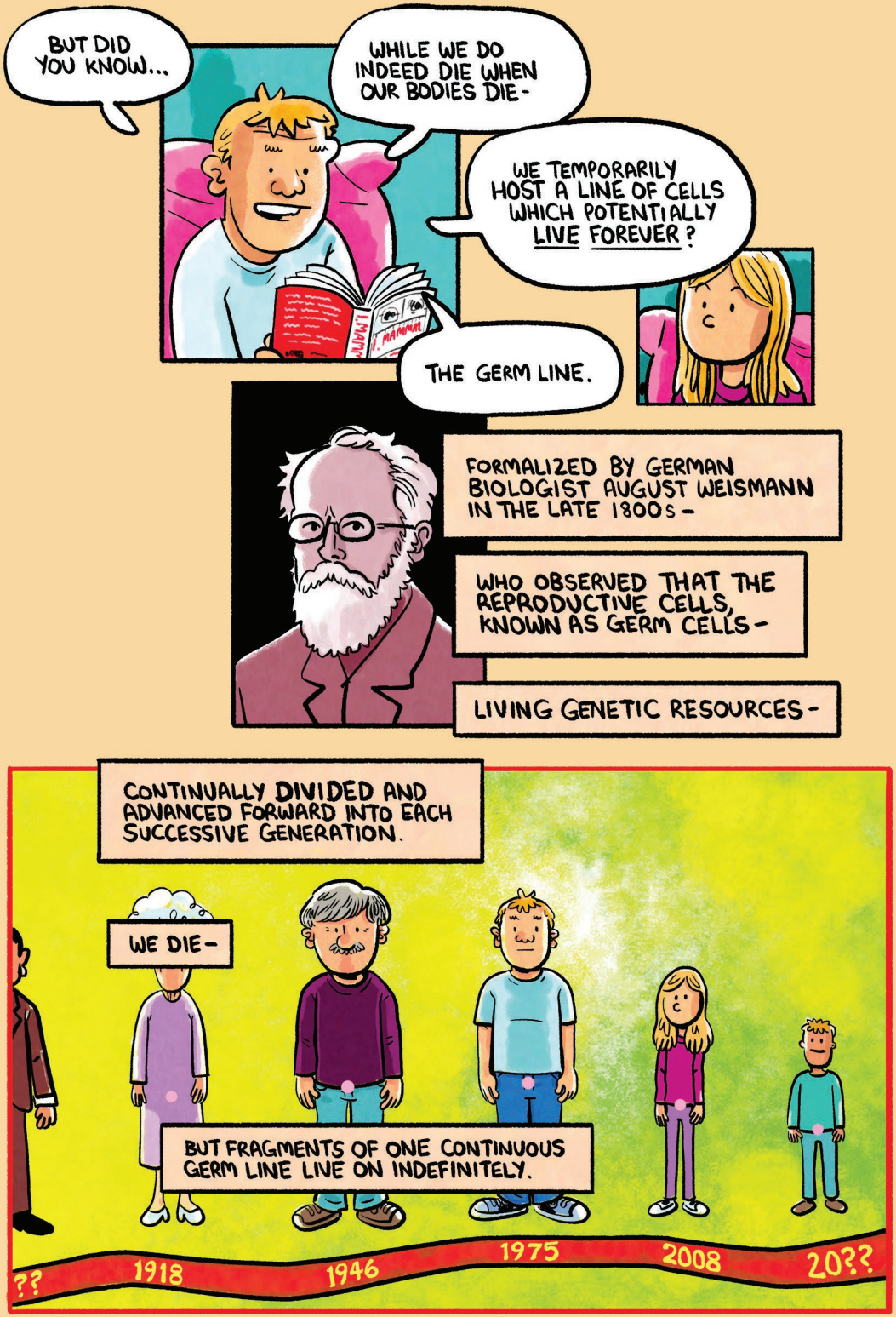

I RECENTLY READ I, MAMMAL BY LIAM DREW, A NEUROBIOLOGIST.
I, MAMMAL
THE STORY OF WHAT MAKES US MAMMALS
LIAM DREW
IT'S A HIGHLY ENGROSSING EXAMINATION OF MAMMALIAN BIOLOGICAL TRAITS AND THE STORY OF THEIR EVOLUTION.
ALSO -
DID YOU KNOW...
THERE ARE BEARS THAT SPEND WHOLE WINTERS IN A CAVE NURSING THEIR CUBS -
AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE MAMA EATS TO STAY ALIVE?
WHAT?
FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR READING ROUTINE...
THE BABY BEARS POOP!
HAHAHAHA!
CHOCK FULL OF INTERESTING AND AMUSING TRIVIA TIDBITS.

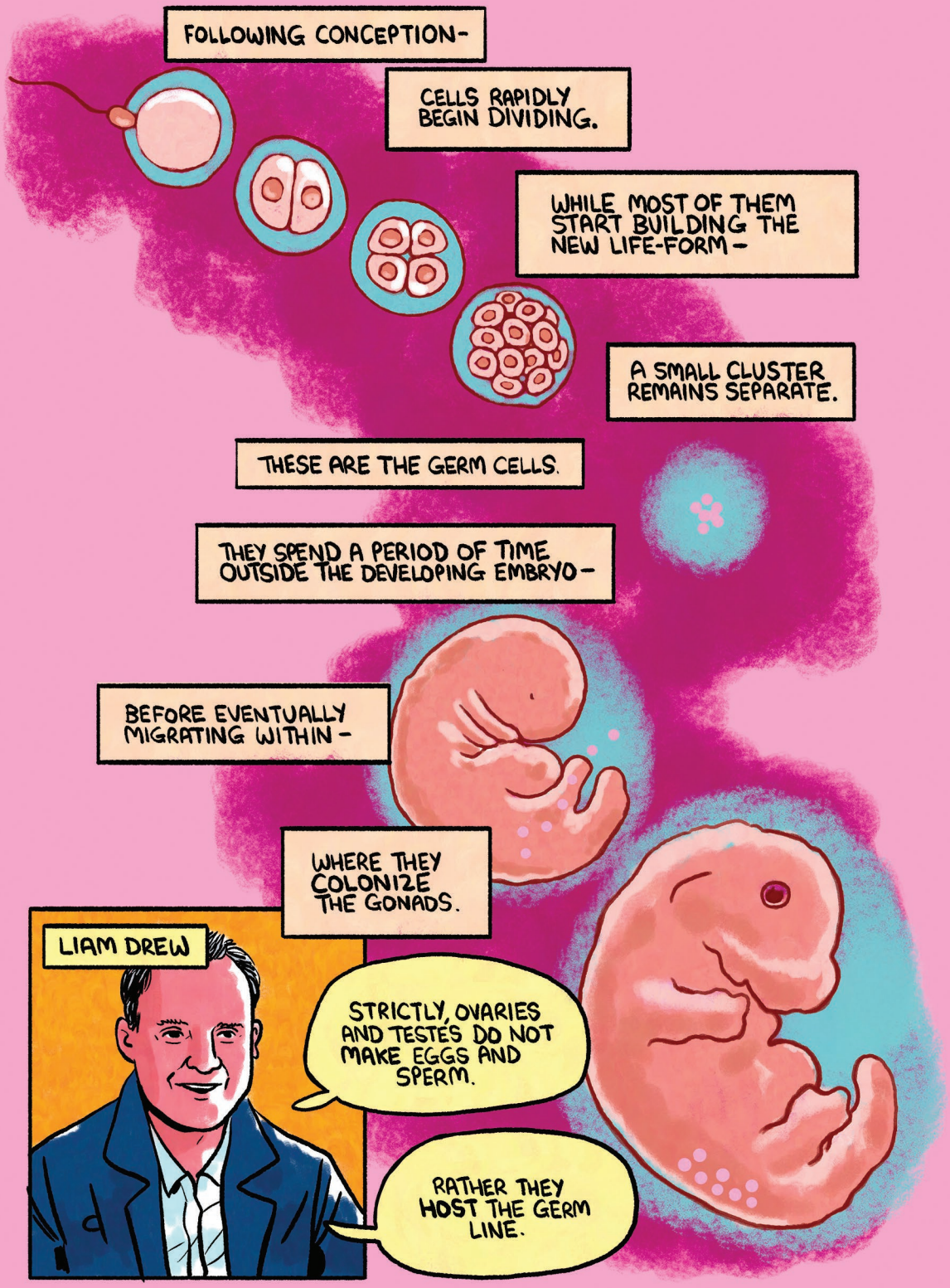

EVEN WHEN THE BOOK IS GOOD-
IT'S TOUGH TO GO TOO LONG WITHOUT "CHECKING IN" ONLINE.
TWITTER, FACEBOOK...
THE FEED NEVER ENDS, AND I NEVER LEAVE IT FOR LONG.
FOLLOWING CURRENT EVENTS SO CLOSELY, ALL DAY, EVERY DAY -
I NEVER SHAKE THE DULL, OMINOUS SENSE THAT ALL IS NOT RIGHT IN THE WORLD.
IN HIS BOOK *THE SHALLOWS: WHAT THE INTERNET IS DOING TO OUR BRAINS*, NICHOLAS CARR WROTE:
WE DON'T SEE THE FOREST WHEN WE SEARCH THE WEB. WE DON'T EVEN SEE THE TREES.
WE SEE TWIGS AND LEAVES.
TELL ME MORE MAMMAL FACTS, DADDY.

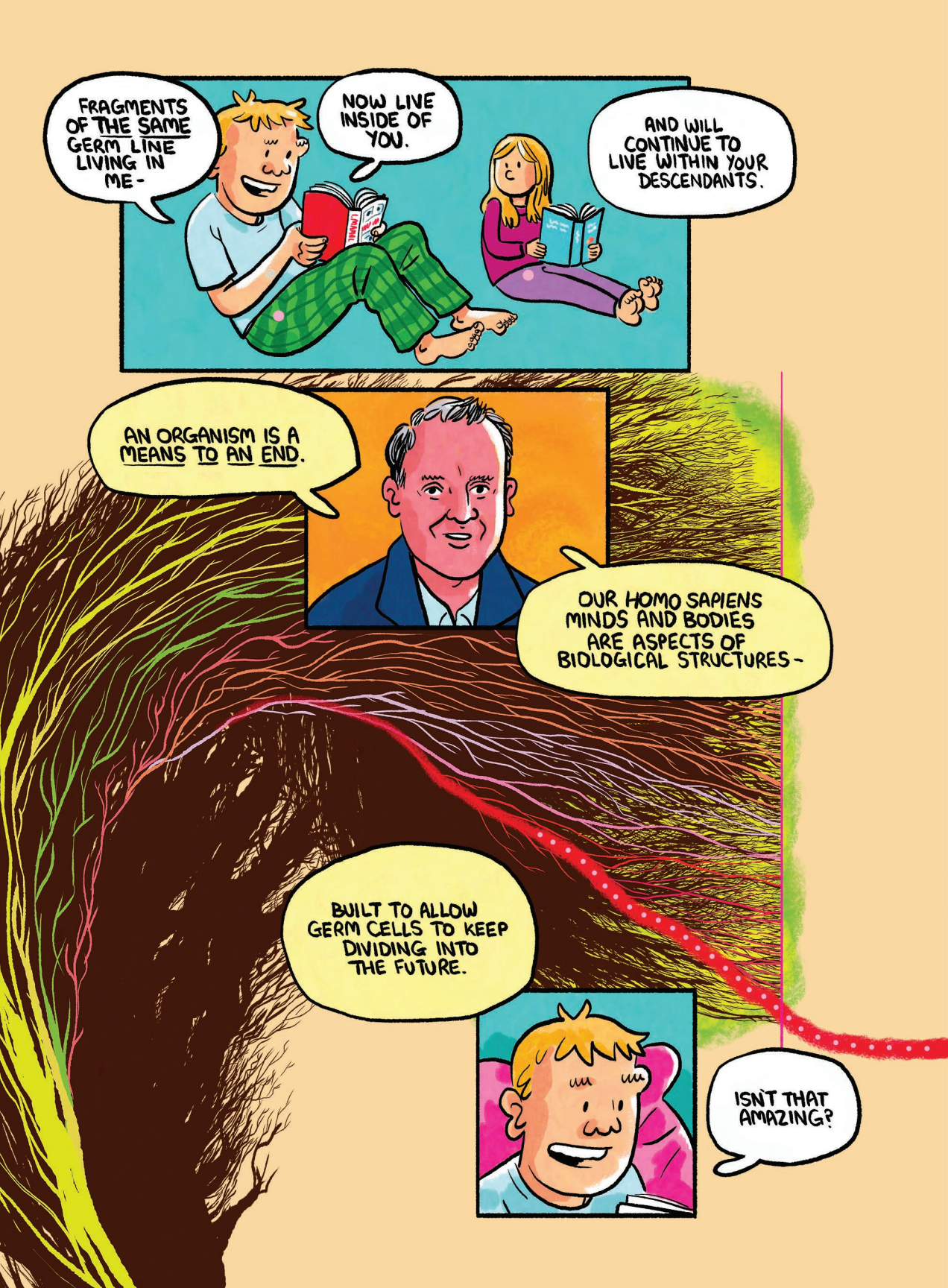

DID YOU KNOW...
A KANGAROO'S TESTICLES HANG IN FRONT OF ITS PENIS?
HAHA!
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I HAVE NO COMPUNCTION TALKING HONESTLY TO MY KIDS ABOUT -
BUT OTHER THINGS I SIMPLY WISH THEY NEVER HAD TO KNOW.
EVOLUTION ISN'T A PROCESS WE CAN SEE TAKING PLACE.
OUR LENS IS TOO NARROW.
I CAN SEE AS FAR AS MY OWN CHILDREN.
IF I'M LUCKY I MAY SEE A GENERATION BEYOND THEM.
IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, I SEE MY PARENTS -
AND MY GRANDPARENTS STILL EXIST IN LIVING MEMORY.
FURTHER BACK THAN THAT, AND THINGS GROW DARK.

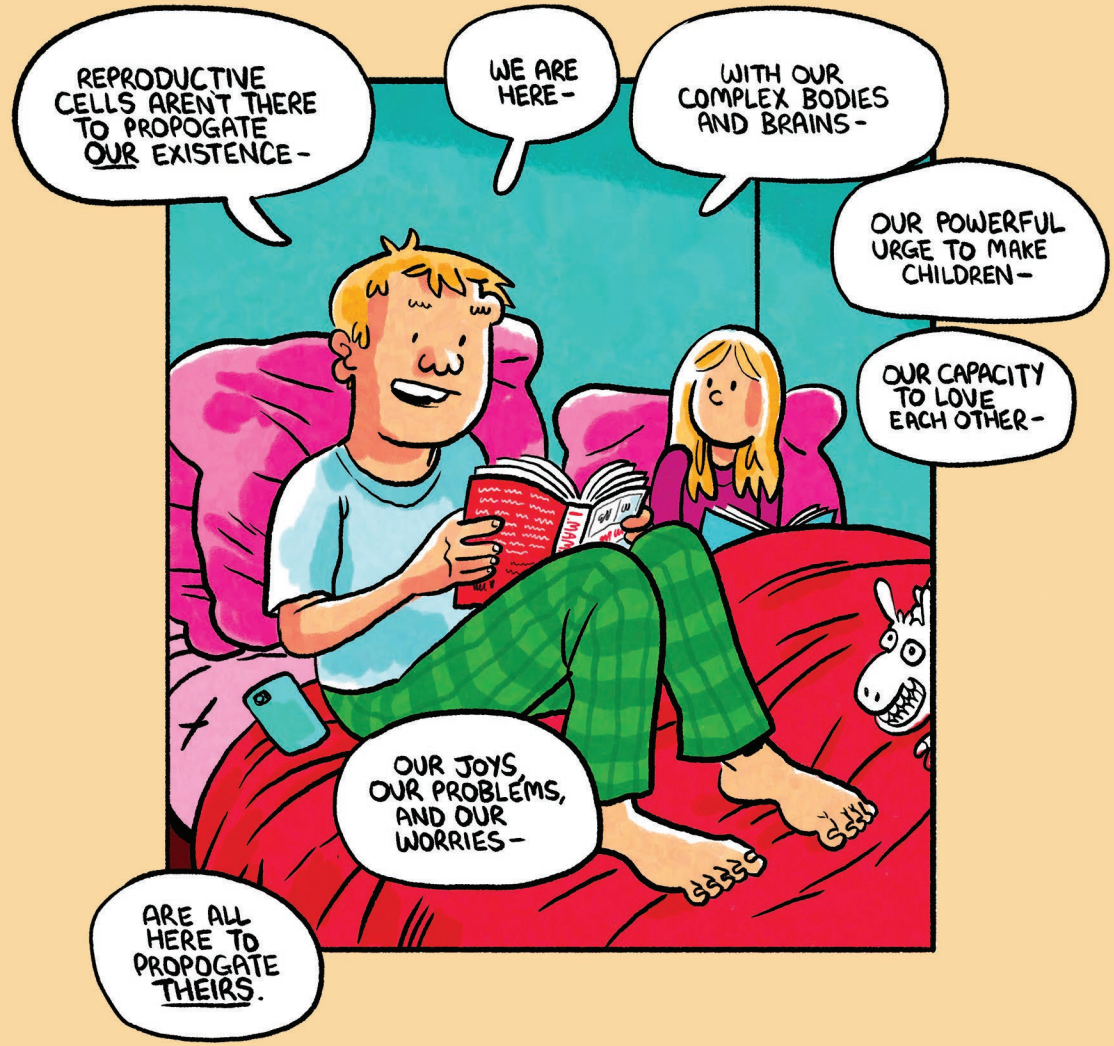
FROM WHERE WE STAND, IT CAN FEEL LIKE WE HAVE A FIRM SENSE OF OUR OWN FAMILY TREES.
??
1918
1946
1975
2008
20??
BUT IN TRUTH, WE CANNOT SEE COMPLETE BRANCHES.
WE CAN BARELY MAKE OUT THE TWIGS.

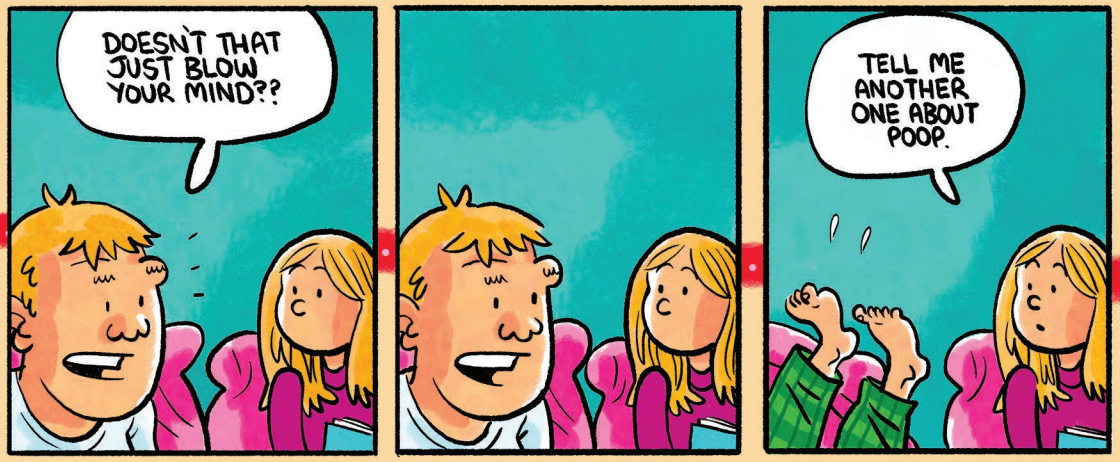

IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO VISUALIZE THE HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH-
WE PERCEIVE A SORT OF IMMORTALITY IN THE CONSTANT SUCCESSION OF SIMILAR LIFE-FORMS.
BUT INDIVIDUAL LIFE-FORMS DIE.
WHEN THE CELLS THAT BUILD OUR BODIES CEASE TO BE -
WE CEASE TO BE.
Bacteria
Archaea
Plants
Fungi
Protostomes
Fish
Amphibians
Reptiles
Birds
Mammals
??
1918
1946
1975
2008
20??


BUT DID YOU KNOW...
WHILE WE DO INDEED DIE WHEN OUR BODIES DIE-
WE TEMPORARILY HOST A LINE OF CELLS WHICH POTENTIALLY LIVE FOREVER?
THE GERM LINE.
FORMALIZED BY GERMAN BIOLOGIST AUGUST WEISMANN IN THE LATE 1800S-
WHO OBSERVED THAT THE REPRODUCTIVE CELLS, KNOWN AS GERM CELLS-
LIVING GENETIC RESOURCES-
CONTINUALLY DIVIDED AND ADVANCED FORWARD INTO EACH SUCCESSIVE GENERATION.
WE DIE-
BUT FRAGMENTS OF ONE CONTINUOUS GERM LINE LIVE ON INDEFINITELY.
??
1918
1946
1975
2008
20??


FOLLOWING CONCEPTION-
CELLS RAPIDLY BEGIN DIVIDING.
WHILE MOST OF THEM START BUILDING THE NEW LIFE-FORM-
A SMALL CLUSTER REMAINS SEPARATE.
THESE ARE THE GERM CELLS.
THEY SPEND A PERIOD OF TIME OUTSIDE THE DEVELOPING EMBRYO-
BEFORE EVENTUALLY MIGRATING WITHIN-
WHERE THEY COLONIZE THE GONADS.
LIAM DREW
STRICTLY, OVARIES AND TESTES DO NOT MAKE EGGS AND SPERM.
RATHER THEY HOST THE GERM LINE.


FRAGMENTS OF THE SAME GERM LINE LIVING IN ME -
NOW LIVE INSIDE OF YOU.
AND WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE WITHIN YOUR DESCENDANTS.
AN ORGANISM IS A MEANS TO AN END.
OUR HOMO SAPIENS MINDS AND BODIES ARE ASPECTS OF BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURES -
BUILT TO ALLOW GERM CELLS TO KEEP DIVIDING INTO THE FUTURE.
ISN'T THAT AMAZING?


REPRODUCTIVE CELLS AREN'T THERE TO PROPOGATE OUR EXISTENCE-
WE ARE HERE-
WITH OUR COMPLEX BODIES AND BRAINS-
OUR POWERFUL URGE TO MAKE CHILDREN-
OUR CAPACITY TO LOVE EACH OTHER-
OUR JOYS, OUR PROBLEMS, AND OUR WORRIES-
ARE ALL HERE TO PROPOGATE THEIRS.


DOESN'T THAT JUST BLOW YOUR MIND??
TELL ME ANOTHER ONE ABOUT POOP.

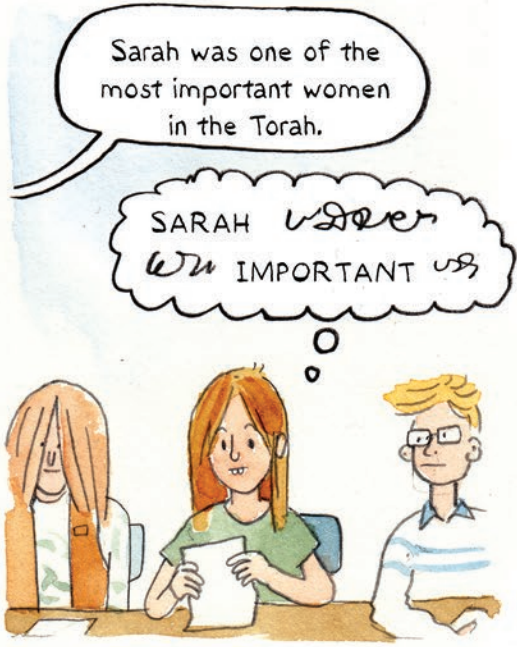
Barren

How an expensive path to fertility highlights the price of pregnancy

By Sarah Glidden

When I was around ten years old, and despite my protests, my mom started sending us to Hebrew school on Sundays. We weren't a religious family, and none of what they taught us seemed relevant to me.

My ears perked up one day when the teacher started telling us about my namesake.



God told Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars!

I was not impressed by biblical Sarah.

Twenty-seven years later, sharing her name seemed fitting.

Now I was an old lady who couldn't get pregnant. We had been trying for two years with no luck.

There had been tests of the noninvasive sort as well as the highly invasive. Nothing was wrong, so we were given an odd diagnosis.

But I was determined; I had always known I wanted to be a mother. I was ready to try everything to make it happen.

Googling furiously again

I got acupuncture regularly.

I had elective surgery to remove polyps which COULD be interfering with implantation (though probably not).

I ate pineapple core, sunflower seeds, bone broth, and a medley of herbal infusions, their consumption determined by where I was in my cycle.

I saw neurologists and even had several visits to a dubious osteopath, thinking that maybe my migraines were connected to my fertility problems.

All of these treatments and doctor's appointments were covered by the health insurance we got through Fran's job. But finally we reached the limits of what insurance would cover and it was time to consider the next steps.

There were obvious reasons why I wanted to avoid artificial insemniation and IVF. Conceiving in a doctor's office wasn't the story I had had in mind when I had dreamt of bringing a child into the world. And of course, it would be expensive: $500 a try for IUI and much, much more for IVF if it came to that.

But the fact was we could afford to pay out of pocket. We were lucky that Fran's job paid enough for us to have savings. I was ashamed of having privilege that others didn't.

What about people who wanted to get pregnant and couldn't afford assisted reproductive technologies? Their journey would end here, so it felt wrong that I should be able to continue.

Infertility consumed my thoughts. Time was divided up into two-week chunks: two weeks from the start of my period until ovulation, then another two weeks waiting to see if conception had occurred. Every premenstural ache and pain that used to go unnoticed was now a potential pregnancy symptom.

And every period was a reminder that my female body was not fulfilling its promise.

Infertility and its even more common cousin, miscarriage, are still taboo, whispered about as if they are things to be ashamed of. So it's easy to feel alone.

Seeing pregnancy announcements on Facebook would throw me into a tailspin of jealousy and self-pity, compounded by the shame of knowing these feelings were ugly.

In my search for stories of infertility I could relate to, I went back to the story of Sarah. It was worse than I remembered.

When Sarah couldn't have a child of her own, she "gave" her Egyptian handmaid, Hagar, to her husband so he could impregnate her instead.

Matthias Stom – Sarah Leading Hagar...

Sarah was jealous of Hagar when she got pregnant with her son, Ishmael, and drove her away, though she returned.

Sarah and Hagar Rubens. Oil on canvas...

After Sarah finally had her miraculous pregnancy and bore Isaac, she had had enough of Hagar and Ishmael and told Abraham to get rid of them. He complied, banishing them.

The thing is, we're not supposed to care that Hagar and Ishmael were left for dead in the desert.

All we care about is whether Sarah got what was promised to her.

Sociologist Ann V. Bell describes two interview subjects in the introduction of her book *Misconception: Social Class and Infertility in America.*

Angie, a Black and homeless 25-year-old, has been trying to conceive for eight years without success.

"She had no health insurance and because of her negative experiences with physicians, she did not seek medical care..."

"Ultimately, Angie, accustomed to not getting everything she wanted in life, was forced to cope with her infertility and primarily sought solace through prayer."

Another is Sarah, a white, upper-middle-class 33-year-old.

"After just six months of trying with temperature taking and ovulation kits...she immediately went to the doctor and began fertility treatments..."

"If her current medications failed to result in pregnancy, Sarah planned to continue medical procedures 'as the doctor orders,' including intrauterine inseminations and in vitro fertilizations."

"She could not imagine a life without children. Motherhood was something she had always wanted, and this situation presented one of the few occasions in her life when things had not gone according to plan."

Ann V. Bell could have been writing about me.

I had thought that my infertility privilege began where health insurance coverage ended. But it goes much deeper than that.

It goes back through a lifetime of trusting doctors, of being treated with respect by them, of people who look like me not being experimented on without their consent.

It goes back through a lifetime of being told by society that I should have children, that I would make a good mother. Women like Angie are told they are not responsible enough to care for a child.

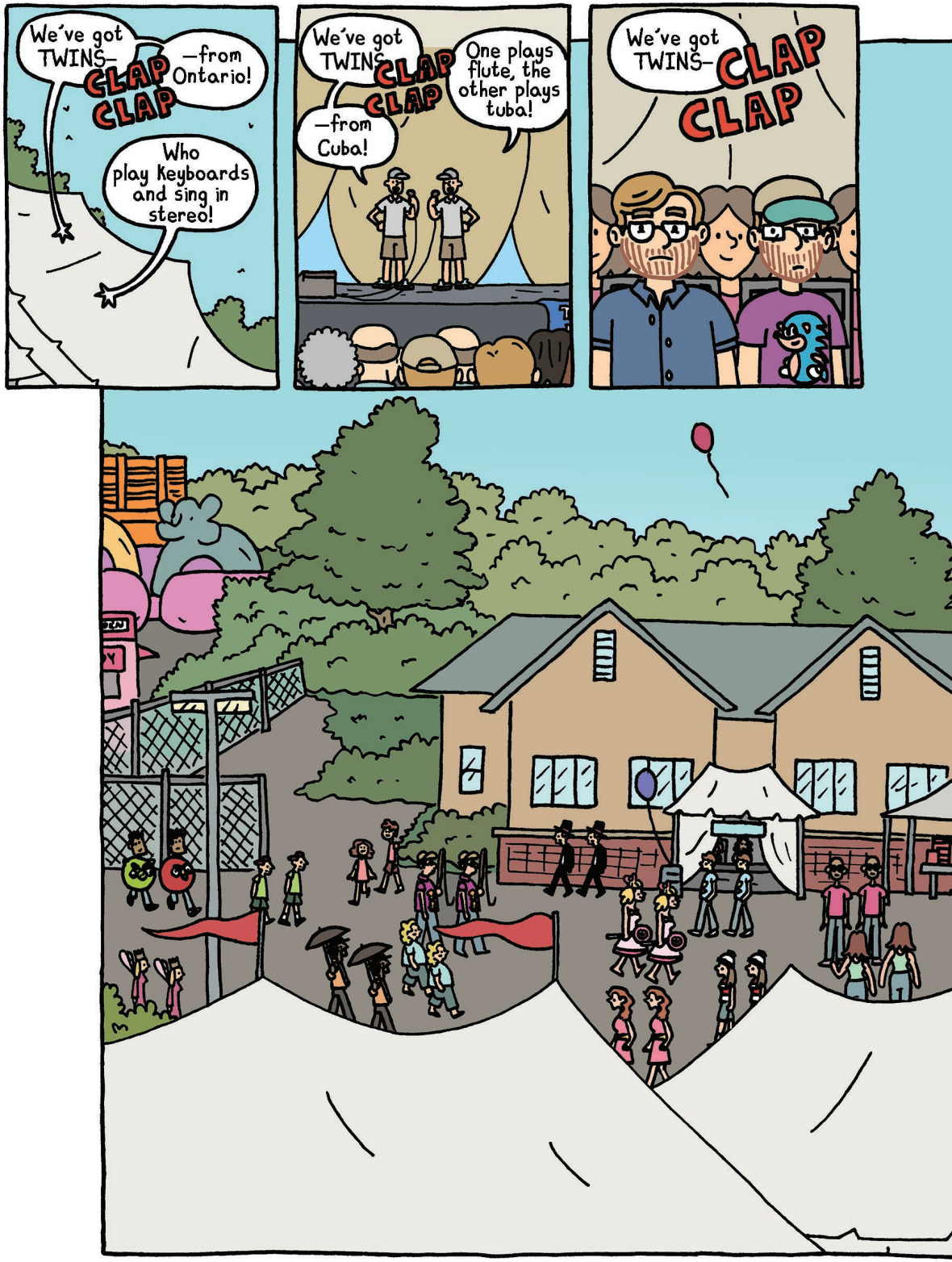
It goes back through a lifetime of expecting that I should be able to get what I want.

Our son was born in the spring, the successful result of our third round of IUI.

A sort of amnesia set in for me once I had him. I forgot how it felt to be pregnant, and I will probably forget the details of his infancy as it passes by.

And I sometimes forget what it felt like to struggle with infertility.

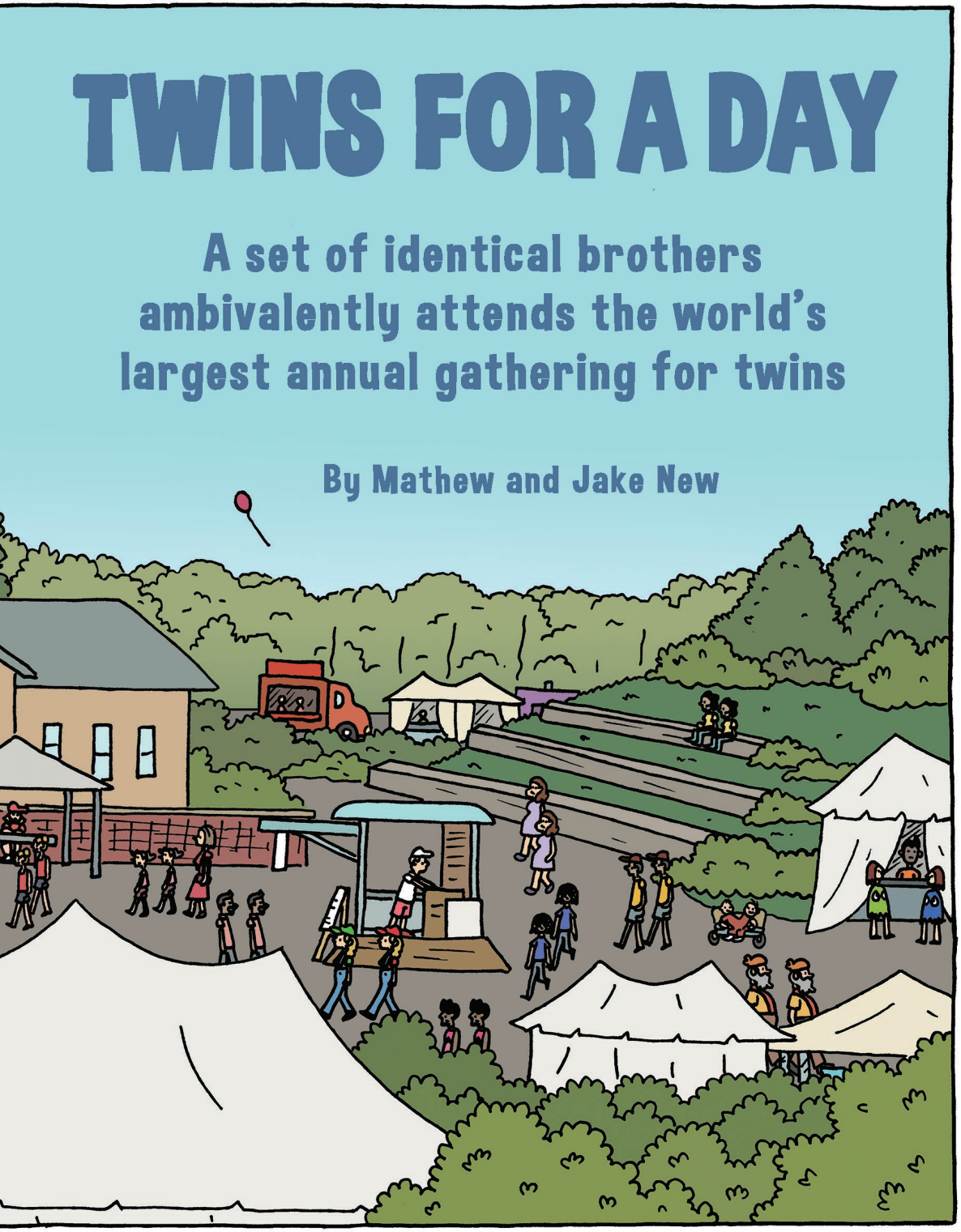
But I won't forget how lucky I am to be his mother.


We've got TWINS–
CLAP CLAP
–from Ontario!
Who play keyboards and sing in stereo!
We've got TWINS–
CLAP CLAP
–from Cuba!
One plays flute, the other plays tuba!
We've got TWINS–
CLAP CLAP

TWINS FOR A DAY

A set of identical brothers ambivalently attends the world's largest annual gathering for twins

By Mathew and Jake New



In the early 1800s, Moses and Aaron Wilcox purchased 4,000 acres of land in Millsville, Ohio. They offered a small portion of their land to create the town square, as well as $20 to build a school.
The brothers were identical twins and had one request in return for their generosity.
You must re-name Millsville to Twinsburg!
The twins would later die on the same day and be buried together in the same grave.
More than a century on, Twinsburg—looking to throw a party for America's bicentennial—organized its first Twins Days. It's now an annual tradition.
1817
197
IN MEMORIUM
It's a festival celebrating all things twin. Triplets, quadruplets, and other multiples are invited, too.
About 3,000 sets of twins show up each year. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, it's the largest gathering of twins in the world.
The original curators of the Guinness Book of World Records—Norris and Ross McWhirter—were twins, too.
In 1975, Ross was assassinated by the Provisional Irish Republican Army. Rumor has it that Norris suddenly fell back into his chair in a daze at the exact moment his brother was shot across town.
It's the sort of rumor one might hear—and believe—when you're at Twins Days.

We were the 1,456th set of twins to register at this year's festival.
You have to pre-register to get a sticker?
Nobody told us that.
It's a strange feeling, us being here. We're twins, but we don't really get it. Unlike the twins next to us, we don't speak in unison.
How hard is it to give us a fucking sticker?
In fact, we've always gone out of our way to avoid it.
Your first time here?
Yea–
–aap. Yep.
–aass. Yes.
Growing up, we refused to sit next to each other on theme park rides.
SPINNER RIDE
We've never even bothered to learn if we are identical or fraternal. And we don't dress alike.

At Twins Days, that's something people notice...

Yeah, we only really halfway met the outfit criteria.

Especially when the year's theme is Two Player Mode and most twins are dressed as video game characters.

You'll get it right next time. This is like a practice year.

You think you'll be back next year?

Oh yeah! We're having a lot of fun!

It's nice. At Twins Days, we're not different. The twindividuals are.

"Twindividuals"—people at the festival who aren't multiples. There are a lot of puns like that here. For instance, "Twingo."

BINGO

And the "Double Take Parade."

TWIN DAYS DOUBLE TAKE PARADE

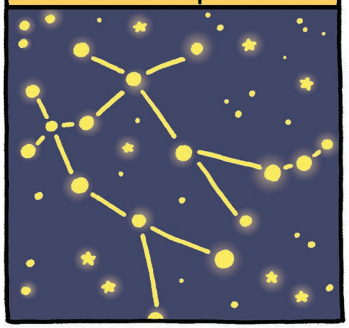
Later today, two sets of twins are getting married to each other in the Twinsburg town square.

They met a year ago at the festival.

You might be able to guess the theme they've chosen for their storybook wedding.

TWICE UPON A TIME

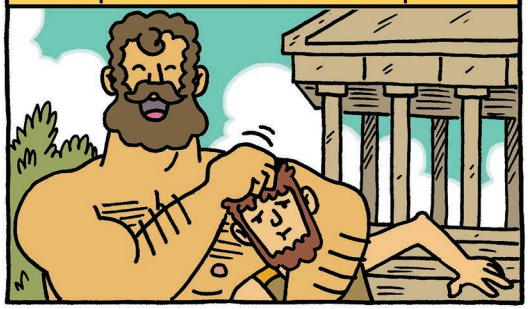
The wedding has been all over the local news this weekend. For many cultures, twins have long been a point of fascination—and even repulsion.



The Yoruba people, who live mostly in southwestern Nigeria, have one of the highest rates of twins in the world. Traditionally, Yoruba twins are considered good luck.

Their bond is so sacred that if one twin dies, the family must create and care for a wooden statue that serves as a stand-in for the dead sibling's soul.

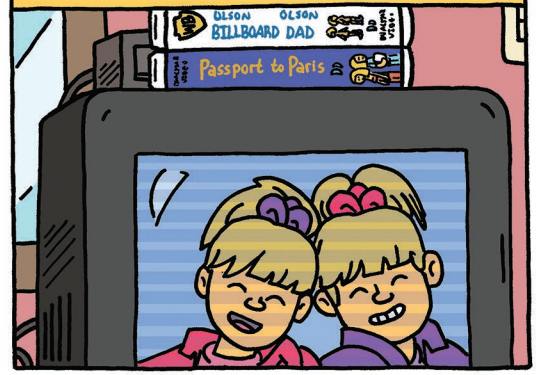
Greek and Roman mythology features more than two dozen sets of twins. Twins were thought to be the product of a woman sleeping with both a god and a mortal man in quick succession. It's how Heracles ended up with his lesser-known (and powerless) twin brother, Iphicles.

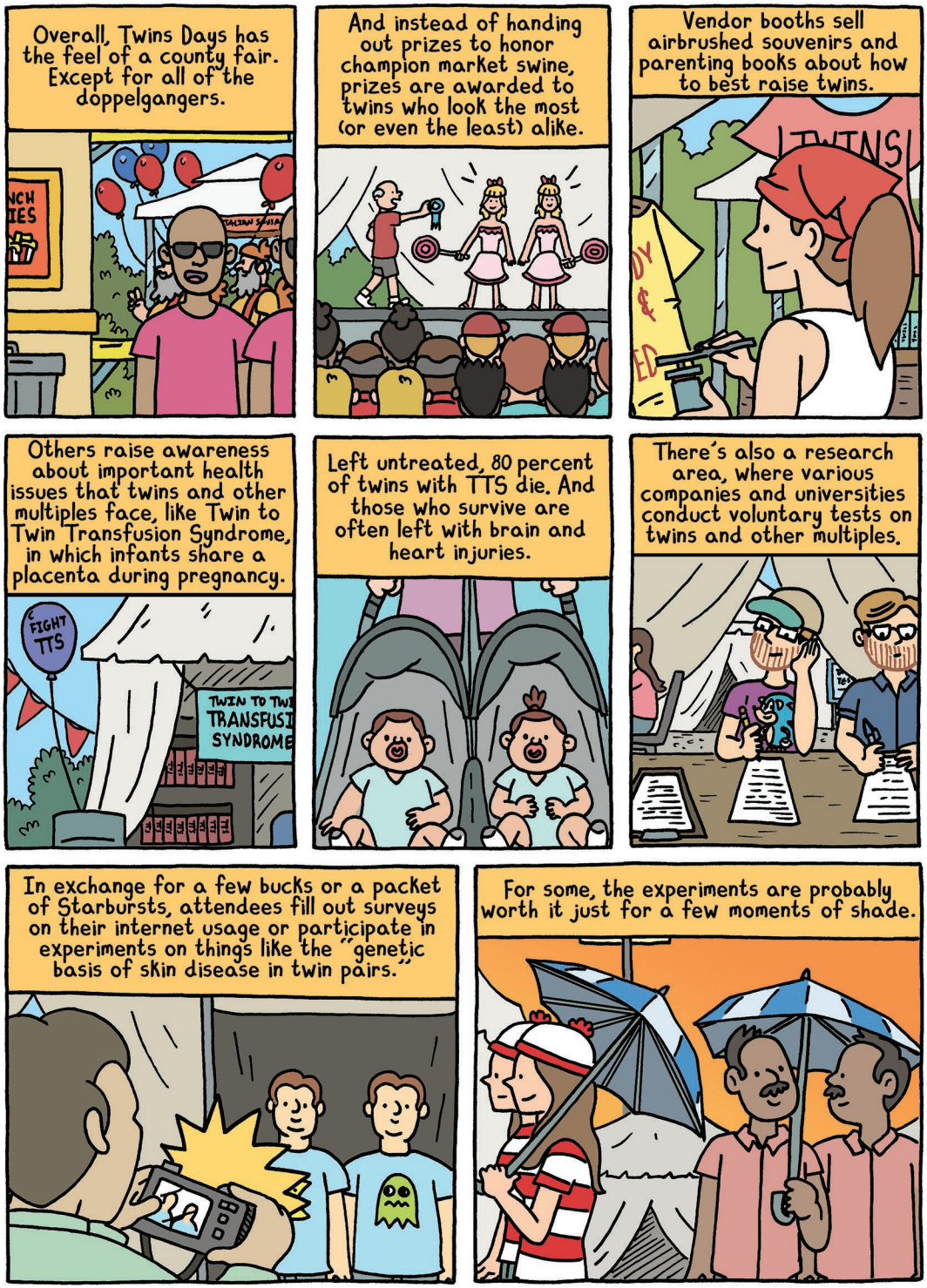


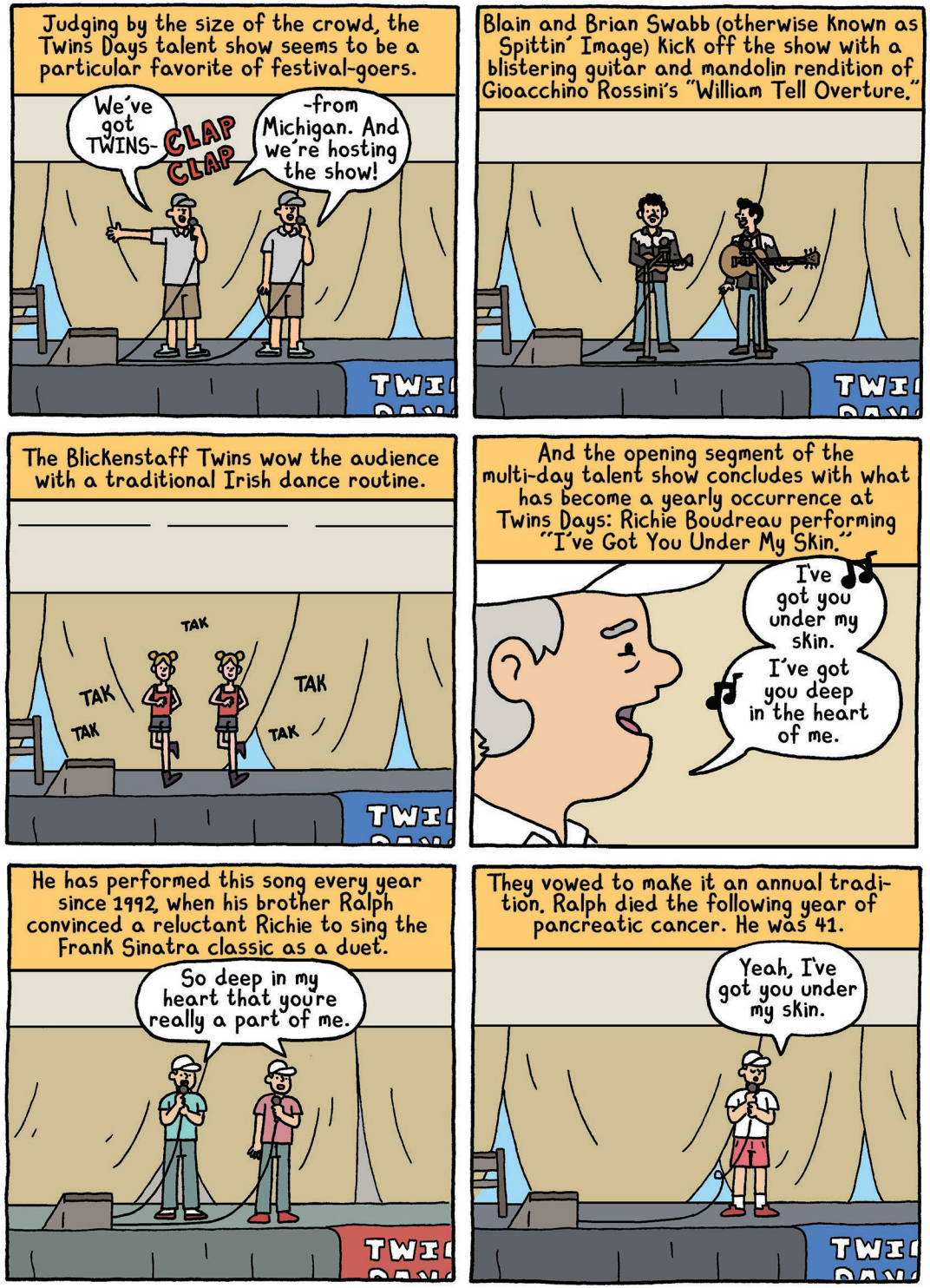
Some early cultures were so terrified of twins that they would be sacrificed at birth. During World War II, the Nazis conducted horrific experiments on twins.

And, throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, twins—especially if they were conjoined or had other disabilities—were sometimes sold by their own mothers into freak shows.

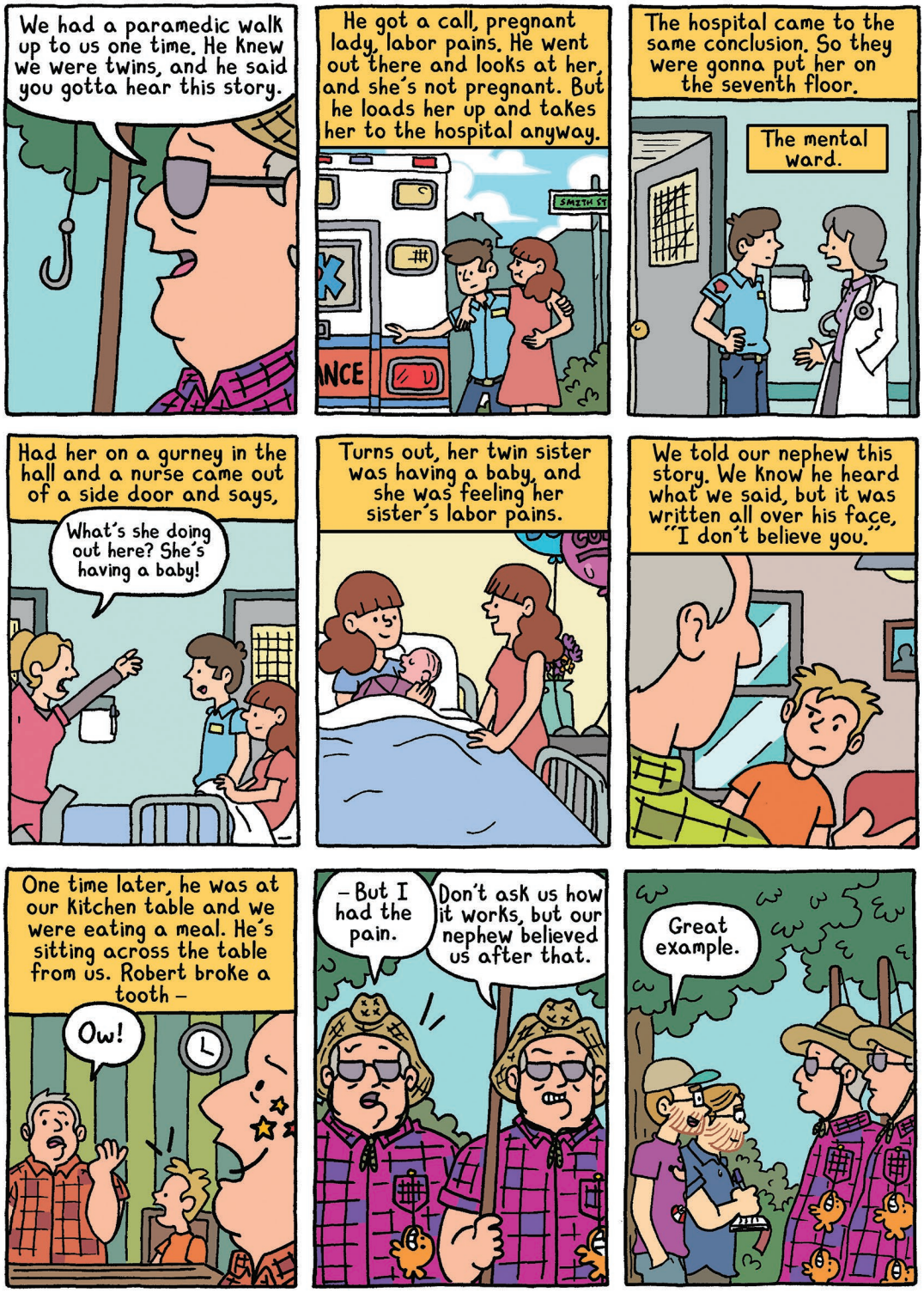
In the United States, this fascination with twins seemed to mostly fade around the time the Olsens left television. Except, of course, in Twinsburg, Ohio.

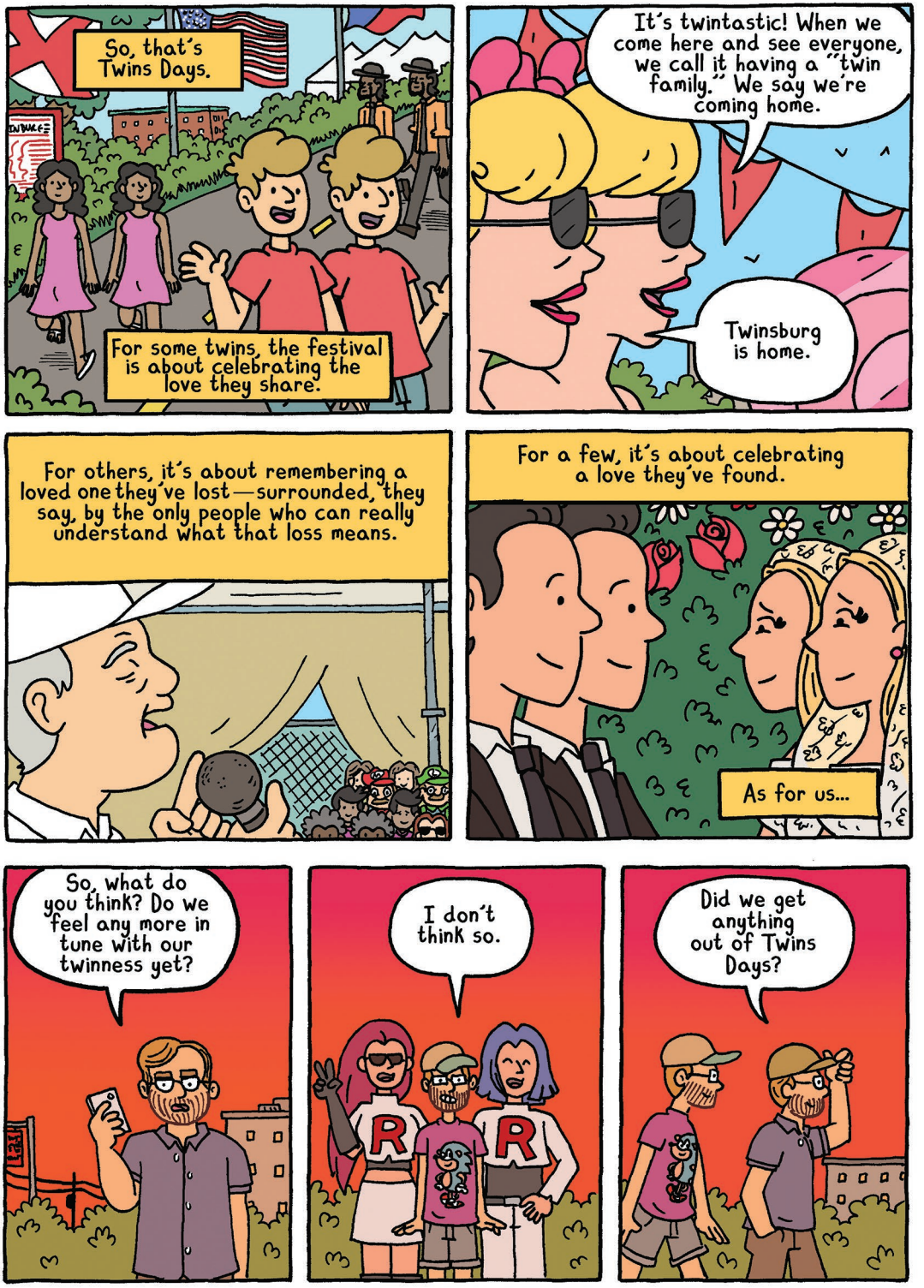



Overall, Twins Days has the feel of a county fair. Except for all of the doppelgangers.
And instead of handing out prizes to honor champion market swine, prizes are awarded to twins who look the most (or even the least) alike.
Vendor booths sell airbrushed souvenirs and parenting books about how to best raise twins.
Others raise awareness about important health issues that twins and other multiples face, like Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome, in which infants share a placenta during pregnancy.
FIGHT TTS
TWIN TO TWI
TRANSFUSI
SYNDROME
Left untreated, 80 percent of twins with TTS die. And those who survive are often left with brain and heart injuries.
There's also a research area, where various companies and universities conduct voluntary tests on twins and other multiples.
In exchange for a few bucks or a packet of Starbursts, attendees fill out surveys on their internet usage or participate in experiments on things like the "genetic basis of skin disease in twin pairs."
For some, the experiments are probably worth it just for a few moments of shade.

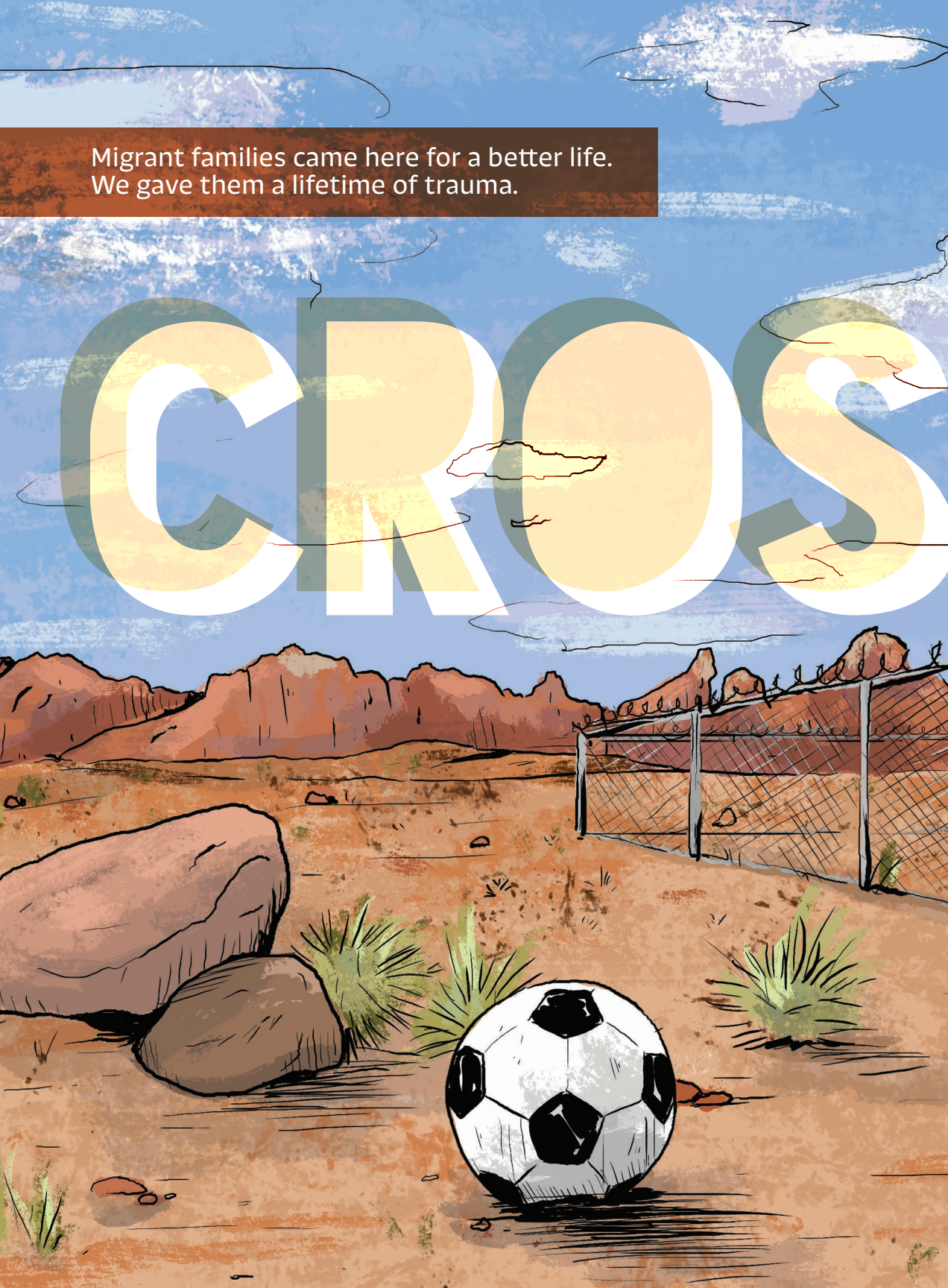

Judging by the size of the crowd, the Twins Days talent show seems to be a particular favorite of festival-goers.
We've got TWINS-
CLAP CLAP
-from Michigan. And we're hosting the show!
Blain and Brian Swabb (otherwise known as Spittin' Image) kick off the show with a blistering guitar and mandolin rendition of Gioacchino Rossini's "William Tell Overture."
The Blickenstaff Twins wow the audience with a traditional Irish dance routine.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
And the opening segment of the multi-day talent show concludes with what has become a yearly occurrence at Twins Days: Richie Boudreau performing "I've Got You Under My Skin."
I've got you under my skin.
I've got you deep in the heart of me.
He has performed this song every year since 1992, when his brother Ralph convinced a reluctant Richie to sing the Frank Sinatra classic as a duet.
So deep in my heart that you're really a part of me.
They vowed to make it an annual tradition. Ralph died the following year of pancreatic cancer. He was 41.
Yeah, I've got you under my skin.

The bond between twins—a connection seemingly so strong that one twin will continue to sing his half of a duet decades after the other has died—is what the festival is celebrating. Twins here say it's a bond that other people can never fully understand.
Frankly, it's one we're still having trouble wrapping our heads around, too.
How would you describe the bond you share with your twin?
Is the connection so special it warrants all of this?
It really is!
I think it's so cool to celebrate something so unique.
She's my best friend, she's my DNA, she's the love of my life.
MIRROR
MAGE
We once played against a team in volleyball. Us two on one side, a full team on the other.
And we were skunkin' 'em.
And we weren't talking to each other when were skunkin' 'em.
We can communicate really without anyone else knowing what's going on.


We had a paramedic walk up to us one time. He knew we were twins, and he said you gotta hear this story.
He got a call, pregnant lady, labor pains. He went out there and looks at her, and she's not pregnant. But he loads her up and takes her to the hospital anyway.
SMITH ST
The hospital came to the same conclusion. So they were gonna put her on the seventh floor.
The mental ward.
Had her on a gurney in the hall and a nurse came out of a side door and says,
What's she doing out here? She's having a baby!
Turns out, her twin sister was having a baby, and she was feeling her sister's labor pains.
We told our nephew this story. We know he heard what we said, but it was written all over his face, "I don't believe you."
One time later, he was at our kitchen table and we were eating a meal. He's sitting across the table from us. Robert broke a tooth –
Ow!
– But I had the pain.
Don't ask us how it works, but our nephew believed us after that.
Great example.


So, that's Twins Days.
For some twins, the festival is about celebrating the love they share.
It's twintastic! When we come here and see everyone, we call it having a "twin family." We say we're coming home.
Twinsburg is home.
For others, it's about remembering a loved one they've lost—surrounded, they say, by the only people who can really understand what that loss means.
For a few, it's about celebrating a love they've found.
As for us...
So, what do you think? Do we feel any more in tune with our twinness yet?
I don't think so.
Did we get anything out of Twins Days?

We don't really have an answer until we're met with a familiar, confused stare while walking back to our hotel.
The kind of stare where someone thinks they're seeing double.
And we're met with a familiar question at dinner.
Are you guys twins?
And a familiar comment during our ride to the airport.
Wow, you guys have exactly the same voice.
"It's nice."
"At Twins Days, we're not different."

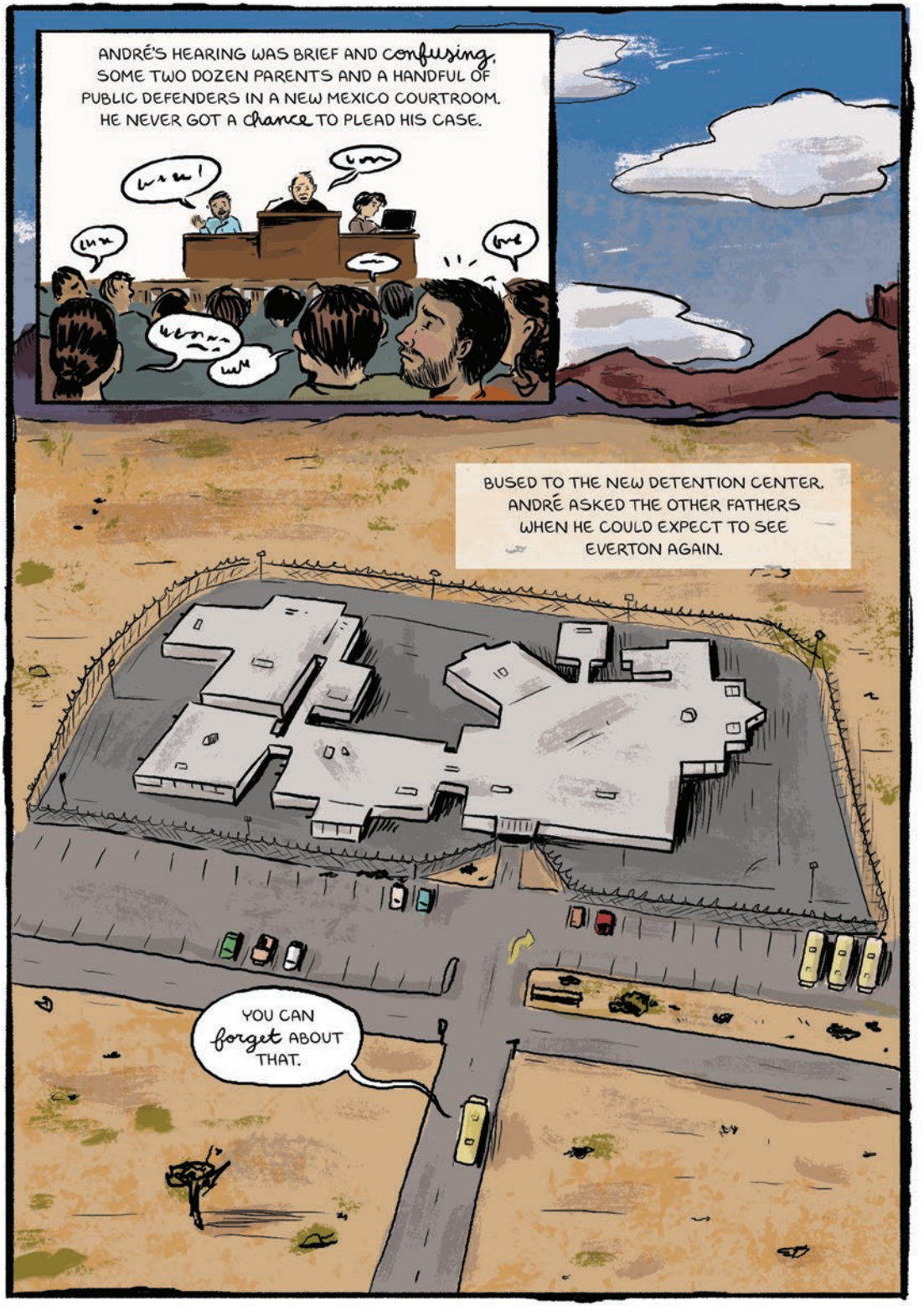

Migrant families came here for a better life.
We gave them a lifetime of trauma.
CROS

SED

Reporting by Ryan Devereaux
Illustrations by Katie Wheeler
Interviews translated by Bruna de Lara

*BOTH OF THEIR NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED SINCE THEIR CASE IS ONGOING.

IT HAD BEEN A LONG JOURNEY FROM THE FAMILY'S SMALL TOWN IN SOUTHEAST BRAZIL–
– TO A MOTEL ROOM IN MEXICO CITY TO THE U.S. BORDER.
MOTEL
VACANCY
THEY HAD COME SEEKING OPPORTUNITY, AN escape FROM THE CRIME AND POVERTY, A CHANCE FOR EVERTON TO GROW UP safe.
ANDRÉ still BELIEVED THAT WHEN THE U.S. BORDER AGENTS ARRESTED THEM, EVERTON WAS TIRED; BUT, ANDRÉ THOUGHT, THEY WERE almost THERE.
THE PLAN WAS TO SEEK ASYLUM AT AN AMERICAN PORT, BUT WHEN THE MOMENT CAME, THEIR GUIDE disappeared. HE HAD URGED THEM TO CROSS A RIVER, TELLING THEM THEY WOULD BE OK.


ANDRÉ'S HEARING WAS BRIEF AND confusing. SOME TWO DOZEN PARENTS AND A HANDFUL OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS IN A NEW MEXICO COURTROOM. HE NEVER GOT A chance TO PLEAD HIS CASE.
BUSED TO THE NEW DETENTION CENTER, ANDRÉ ASKED THE OTHER FATHERS WHEN HE COULD EXPECT TO SEE EVERTON AGAIN.
YOU CAN forget ABOUT THAT.

THE BRAZILIANS WERE *not* ALONE. ACROSS THE BORDER, FEDERAL AGENTS SPENT MUCH OF THE SUMMER *tearing* IMMIGRANT CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS, PART OF A SWEEPING ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE DUBBED "ZERO TOLERANCE."

IN A MATTER OF *weeks*, THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WERE TAKEN AND SCATTERED AMONG MORE THAN 100 FACILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING SOME WITH *dark* HISTORIES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT. EXPERTS WARNED THEY WERE AT RISK OF LONG-STANDING PSYCHOLOGICAL *trauma*.

EVERTON LANDED IN CHICAGO, WHERE HE CLUNG CLOSELY TO TWO OTHER PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING KIDS. HE MADE A *calendar* TO PASS THE DAYS.

MORE THAN A THOUSAND MILES AWAY, ANDRÉ WAS RACKED WITH *guilt*, FEELING AS THOUSGH HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO *lie* TO HIS SON, A CHILD WHO COUNTED ON HIM FOR *everything*.

DAYS WENT BY BEFORE THE TWO WERE CONNECTED BY PHONE. THE TINY VOICE ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE ONLY *deepened* ANDRÉ'S CONCERN.

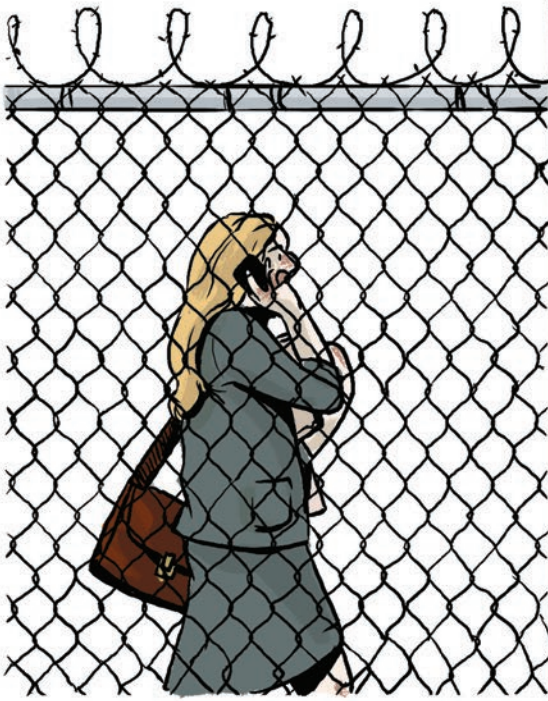
OUTSIDE THE DETENTION CENTER WALLS, PUBLIC OUTRAGE WAS MOUNTING, WITH IMAGES OF BEWILDERED KIDS SEPARATED BY ARMED AGENTS AND AUDIO OF *crying* CHILDREN IN DETENTION CENTERS SPLASHED ACROSS THE NEWS.

"MY *mommy* SAYS THAT I'LL GO WITH MY AUNT AND THAT SHE'LL COME TO PICK ME UP THERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

AS *pressure* MOUNTED, A CRACK TEAM OF IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS LEARNED OF THE BRAZILIANS' CASE AND STEPPED IN TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RELEASE.

THE LAWYERS FILED MOTION AFTER MOTION.

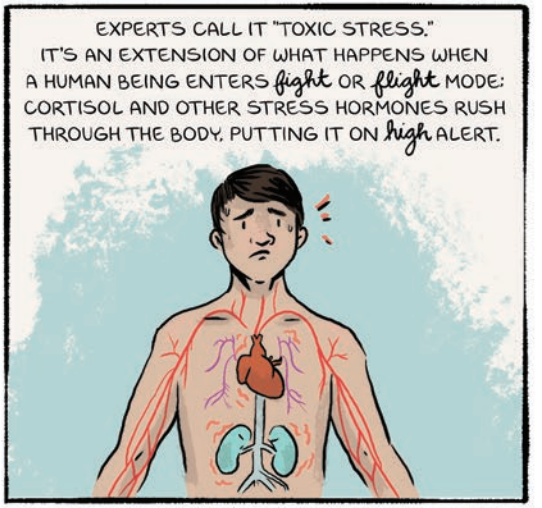
IN CHICAGO, EVERTON RETRACED HIS *journey* WITH PAPER AND CRAYONS.

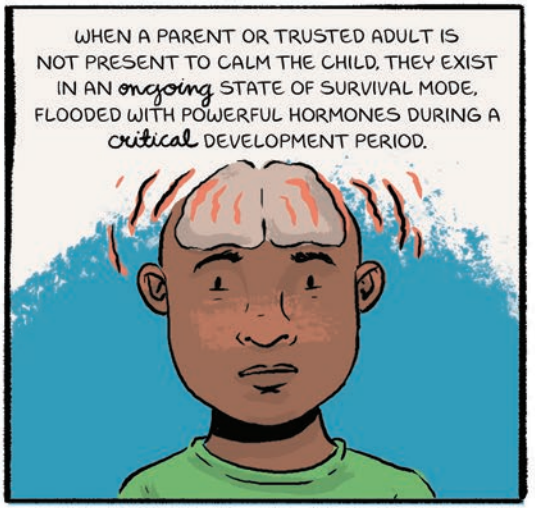


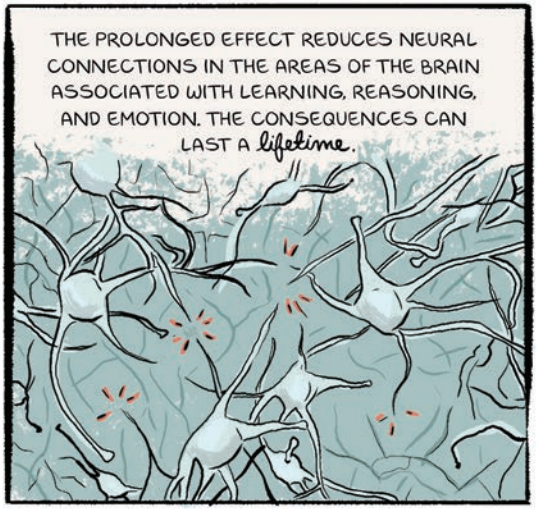
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE BORDER, ANDRÉ *refused* IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES' DUBIOUS EFFORTS TO AUTHORIZE HIS OWN DEPORTATION IN *exchange* FOR EVERTON'S RELEASE – A PROMISE THAT WAS *hardly* GUARANTEED.

BY MIDSUMMER, REUNIFICATIONS FOR SOME FAMILIES SEPARATED UNDER ZERO TOLERANCE BEGAN, BUT IN SOME CASES, PARENTS FOUND THAT THEIR CHILDREN HAD changed.
AT AIRPORT REUNIONS, tearful MOTHERS AND FATHERS WRAPPED THEIR ARMS AROUND CHILDREN WITH vacant STARES.
REUNITED CHILDREN PLAYACTED THE role OF DETENTION GUARDS –
BAGGAGE
– REPEATING WORDS AND ACTIONS THEY HAD seen WHILE LOCKED UP.
NO TOUCHING!

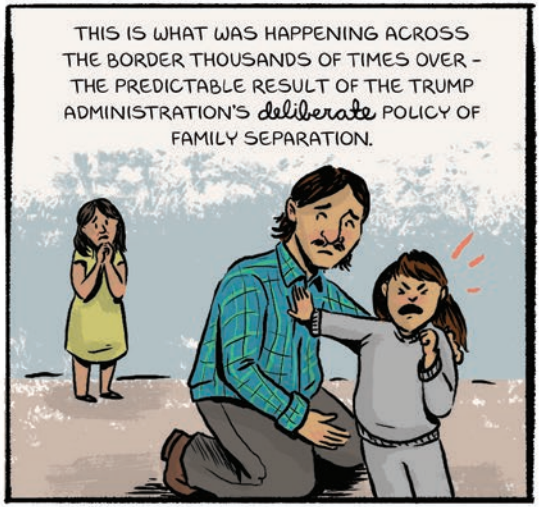
ACCORDING TO DR. COLLEEN KRAFT, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS CAN LEAD TO *serious* CONSEQUENCES.
WE KNOW THAT STRESS ACTUALLY *disrupts* THEIR BRAIN ARCHITECTURE.
NOW THIS NEWS
JUNE 21, 2018

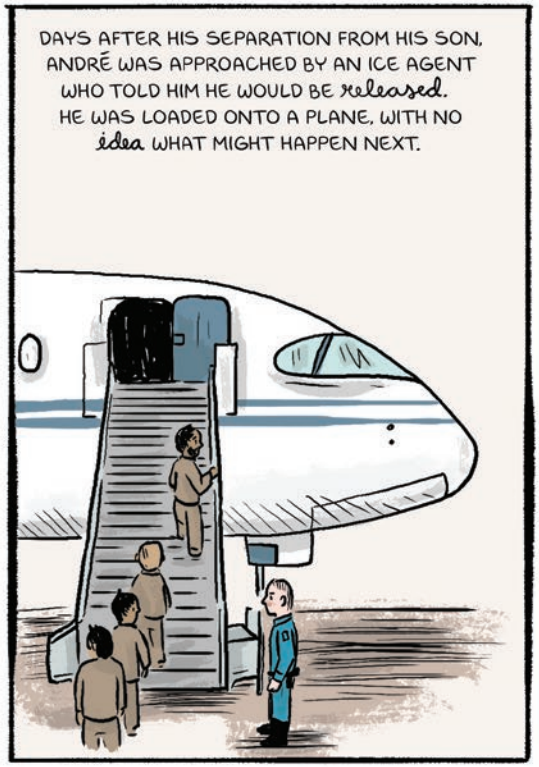

EXPERTS CALL IT "TOXIC STRESS." IT'S AN EXTENSION OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A HUMAN BEING ENTERS *fight* OR *flight* MODE: CORTISOL AND OTHER STRESS HORMONES RUSH THROUGH THE BODY, PUTTING IT ON *high* ALERT.


WHEN A PARENT OR TRUSTED ADULT IS NOT PRESENT TO CALM THE CHILD, THEY EXIST IN AN *ongoing* STATE OF SURVIVAL MODE, FLOODED WITH POWERFUL HORMONES DURING A *critical* DEVELOPMENT PERIOD.


THE PROLONGED EFFECT REDUCES NEURAL CONNECTIONS IN THE AREAS OF THE BRAIN ASSOCIATED WITH LEARNING, REASONING, AND EMOTION. THE CONSEQUENCES CAN LAST A *lifetime*.

THIS IS WHAT DR. KRAFT SAW WHEN SHE TRAVELED TO THE TEXAS BORDER AND WATCHED AS A LITTLE GIRL, A TODDLER, *writhed* INCONSOLABLY ON A MAT IN A GOVERNMENT HOLDING CENTER.

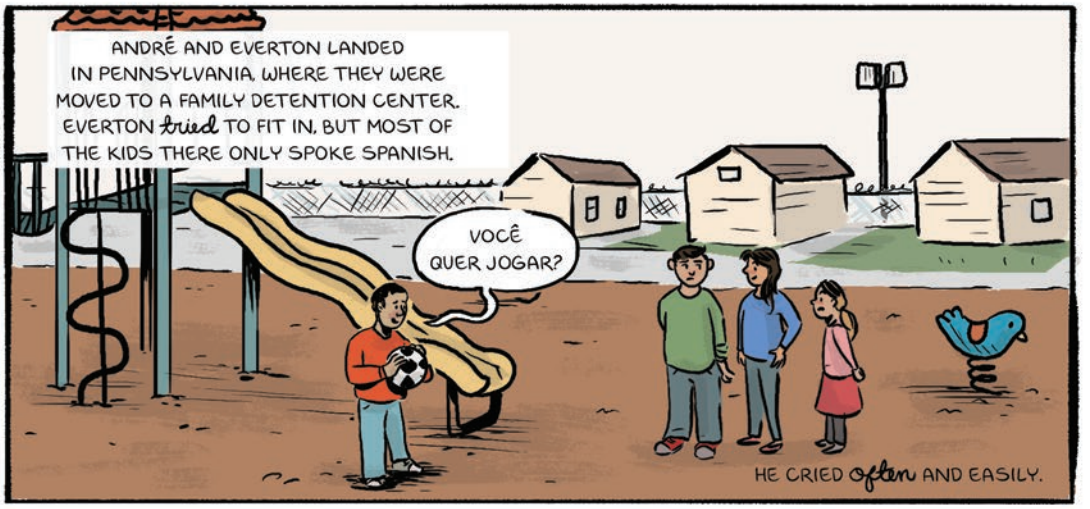

THIS IS WHAT WAS HAPPENING ACROSS THE BORDER THOUSANDS OF TIMES OVER – THE PREDICTABLE RESULT OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S *deliberate* POLICY OF FAMILY SEPARATION.

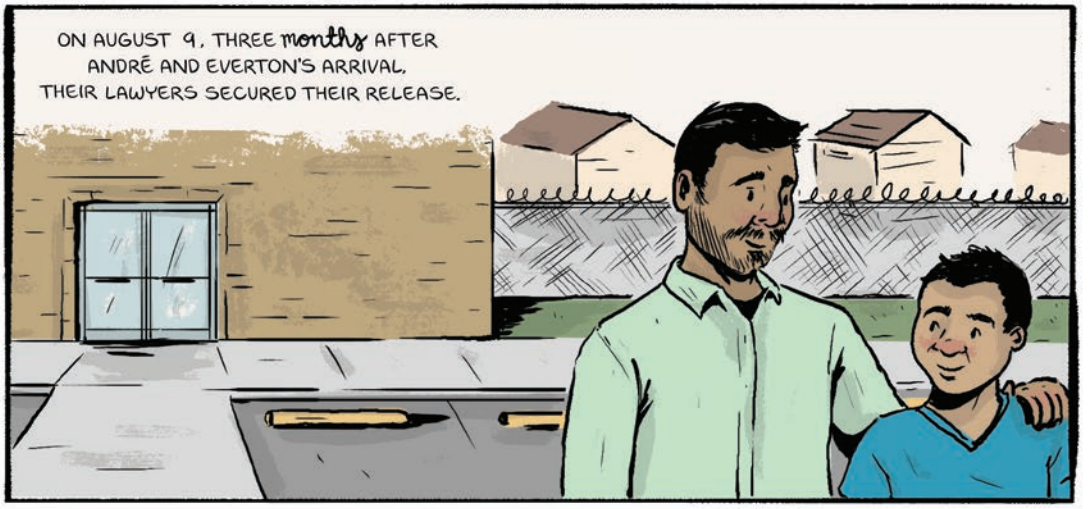

DAYS AFTER HIS SEPARATION FROM HIS SON, ANDRÉ WAS APPROACHED BY AN ICE AGENT WHO TOLD HIM HE WOULD BE released. HE WAS LOADED ONTO A PLANE, WITH NO idea WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.

ANDRÉ AND EVERTON WERE REUNITED IN CHICAGO, BUT THEIR JOURNEY WAS far FROM OVER. THE TWO WERE LOADED ONTO another PLANE, BOUND FOR THE EAST COAST.

EVERTON BARELY spoke AS THE PLANE CROSSED THE COUNTRY.
WHY ARE YOU crying?

EVERTON FEARED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER AND MOTHER, STILL IN BRAZIL, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE same EXPERIENCE IF THEY CAME TO THE U.S.


ANDRÉ AND EVERTON LANDED IN PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE THEY WERE MOVED TO A FAMILY DETENTION CENTER. EVERTON tried TO FIT IN, BUT MOST OF THE KIDS THERE ONLY SPOKE SPANISH.
VOCÊ QUER JOGAR?
HE CRIED often AND EASILY.


ON AUGUST 9, THREE months AFTER ANDRÉ AND EVERTON'S ARRIVAL, THEIR LAWYERS SECURED THEIR RELEASE.

ANDRÉ, TODAY, IS WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION.

WITH HIS MOM AND YOUNGER BROTHER NOW WITH THEM IN THE U.S., EVERTON IS IMPROVING, BUT THE ROAD AHEAD WILL BE long.

WHILE THE STORY OF FAMILY SEPARATION HAS faded FROM THE HEADLINES, THE STORY GOES ON.
A NOVEMBER 2018 INVESTIGATION BY PROPUBLICA FOUND THE PRACTICE HAD QUIETLY RESUMED IN COMMUNITIES ALONG THE BORDER.
MORE THAN 100 CHILDREN REMAIN SEPARATED FROM THEIR PARENTS. THOUSANDS OF OTHERS ARE STILL LIVING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

Keep your Family close. Keep the NIB Closer.

Illustration by Erlend Sandøy

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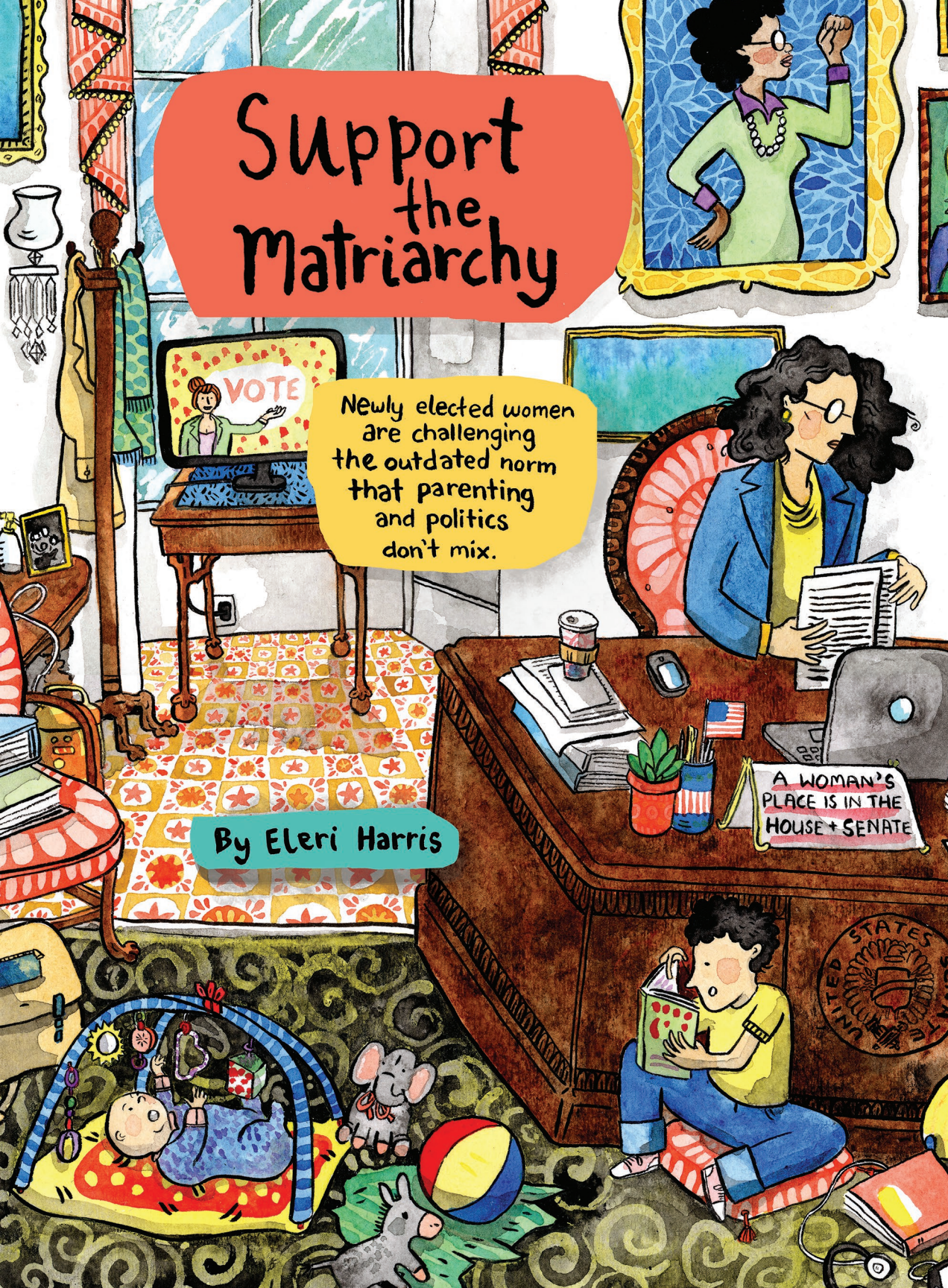

Support the Matriarchy
VOTE
Newly elected women are challenging the outdated norm that parenting and politics don't mix.
By Eleri Harris
A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOUSE + SENATE
UNITED STATES

They're calling 2018 the "pink wave." A record number of female candidates ran for election in the midterms, with 40 newbies set to take their seats in January.

...As we fight for our immigrant families, our neighbors, our children...

...our planet, our communities...

I promise to always have your back.

Representative-elect Ilhan Omar (D-MN) victory speech, November 6, 2018.

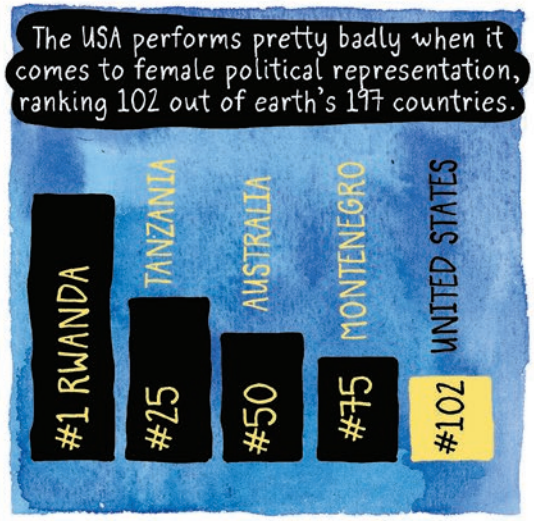
Research has shown that female candidates and politicians, unlike their male counterparts, are routinely asked how they balance their work with having a family.

Yet few are asked how the structures of American democracy could be altered to allow underrepresented people to run for office.

The actual structures are due for a retrofit as well. Most state houses and the U.S. Capitol building weren't constructed with women or families in mind.

"People don't just run. They get encouraged, urged, recruited, supported."

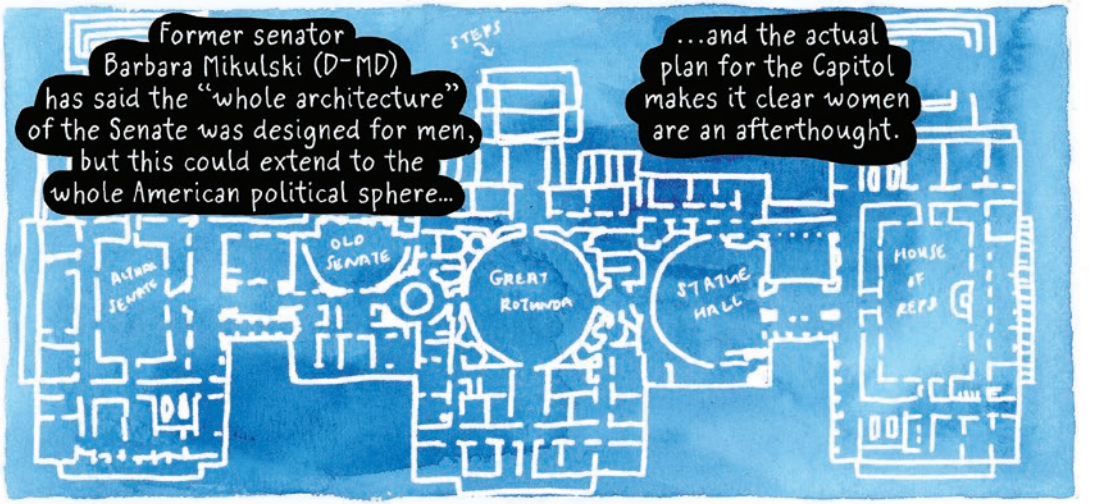
– Prof. Virginia Sapiro, Boston University


The USA performs pretty badly when it comes to female political representation, ranking 102 out of earth's 197 countries.
#1 RWANDA
#25 TANZANIA
#50 AUSTRALIA
#75 MONTENEGRO
#102 UNITED STATES

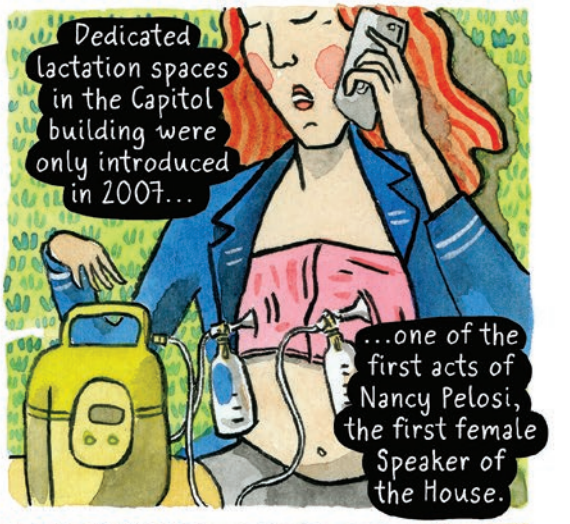
Less than 25% of American federal representatives are female, with Vermont and Mississippi yet to elect a woman to Congress ever.

The deficits of infrastructure to support female candidates are manyfold, from the gruelling time suck of the campaign trail and travel to the capital once the seat is won, to unfavorable access to big donors, requiring more work for greater numbers of small contributions.
VOTE #1
vote#1
$?
VOTE #1
$??
It's a decidedly un-friendly process for families.
VOTE #1
VOTE #1
VOTE #1 ME
$?
GET OUT THE VO

Yet having larger numbers of women representatives has implications for policy development on issues that primarily impact women and children.
...when you're not in the room, people are having a conversation about you.
And when you're in the room, they're having a conversation with you.
Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

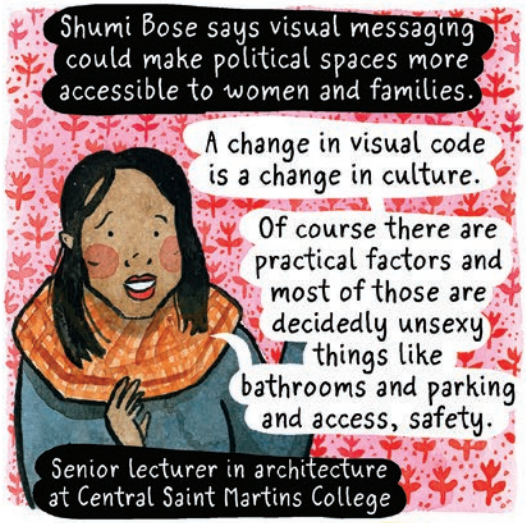

Former senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) has said the "whole architecture" of the Senate was designed for men, but this could extend to the whole American political sphere...
...and the actual plan for the Capitol makes it clear women are an afterthought.
STEPS
OLD SENATE
GREAT ROTUNDA
STATUE HALL
HOUSE OF REPS

The first woman elected to Congress was Jeannette Rankin in 1916, but bathrooms for female members of the House of Representatives weren't installed until 2011.
Until 2013, there were just two stalls in the female restroom closest to the Senate floor...
...for use by more than 20 female senators.

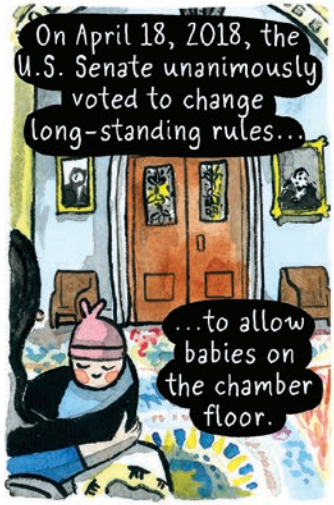

Dedicated lactation spaces in the Capitol building were only introduced in 2007...
...one of the first acts of Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House.

And until 2009, female senators were barred from using the Senate pool because some male senators liked to swim nude.

By neglecting facilities for non-male members, the structures of America's political spaces make women late for votes while they traipse to far-flung, substandard bathrooms...
...miss votes when their children are hungry...
...and clearly communicate that this arena...
..is not designed for them or their kids.

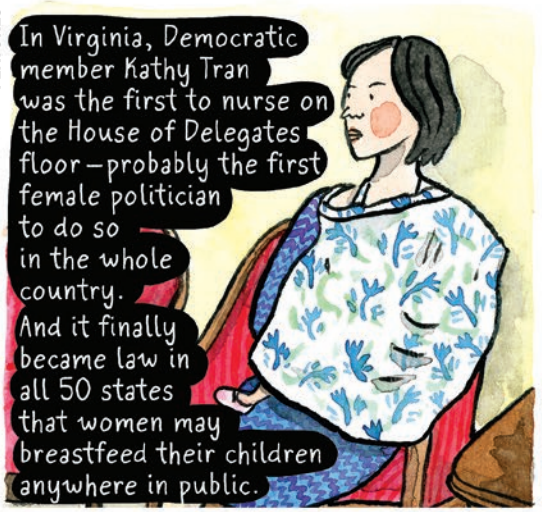

Shumi Bose says visual messaging could make political spaces more accessible to women and families.
A change in visual code is a change in culture.
Of course there are practical factors and most of those are decidedly unsexy things like bathrooms and parking and access, safety.
Senior lecturer in architecture at Central Saint Martins College

Small-scale changes that smooth the way for politicians with young families are happening in Congress and the state houses...
...nursing mothers being a case in point.


On April 18, 2018, the U.S. Senate unanimously voted to change long-standing rules...
...to allow babies on the chamber floor.

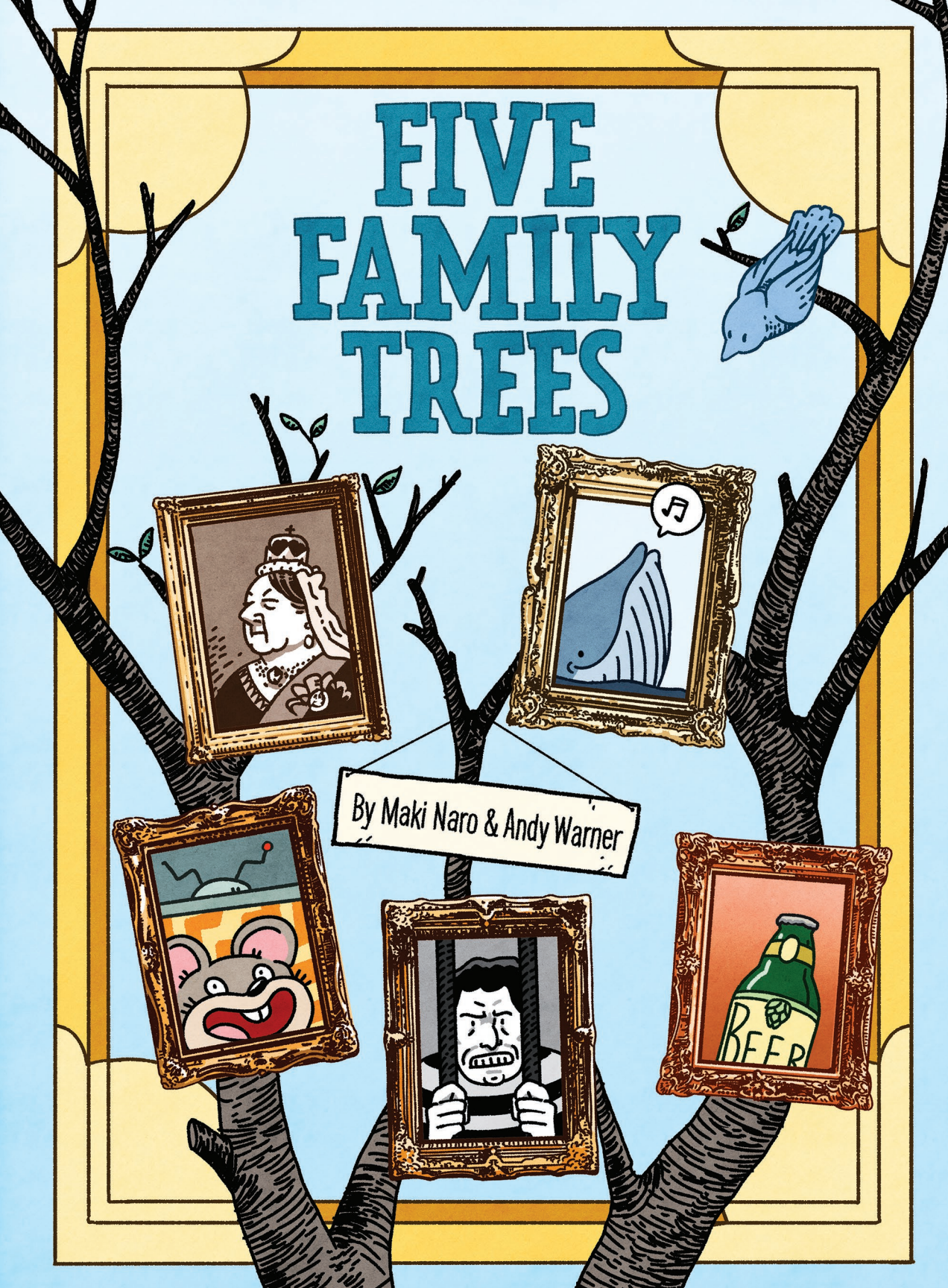
By ensuring that no senator will be prevented from performing their constitutional responsibilities simply because they have a young child...
Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

...the Senate is leading by example and sending the important message that working parents everywhere deserve family-friendly workplace policies.



Largely prompted to run by the #MeToo movement and opposition to the Trump presidency, these new female politicians have the potential (and desire) to remake American political spaces and governance.

Sources: A Seat at the Table (Oxford University Press, 2018), Inter-Parliamentary Union, New York Times, Politico, Daily Dot, Cosmo & original interviews.


FIVE FAMILY TREES
By Maki Naro & Andy Warner
BEER

Queen Victoria of England, who hated being pregnant, had nine children. Through them, her descendants went on to sit on the thrones of nine kingdoms and empires in Europe, five extant and four extinct.

CRIME

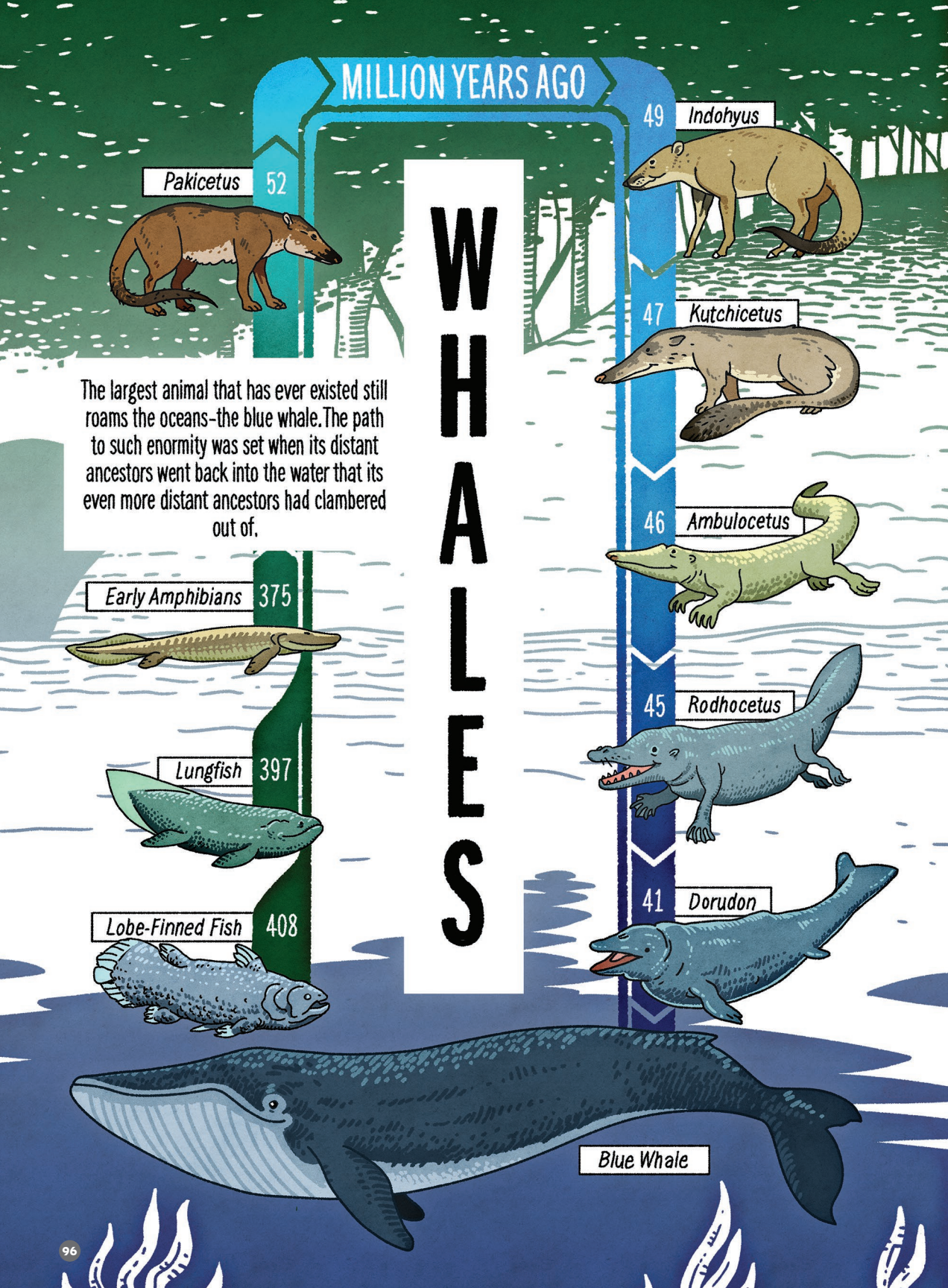
The American Mafia in New York is still dominated by the **Five Families**, who have shared rule since assassinating the *Capo Di Tutti Capi* (Boss of All Bosses), **Salvatore Maranzano**, in 1931 at the end of a bloody internal war.

BEER

Over the past 15 years, enormous multinational beverage companies have merged with each other and bought up what were once small craft breweries. Now, over 90% of beer consumed in the U.S. is owned by one of two companies.

*A fifth, CBS, pretty much owns what's left.

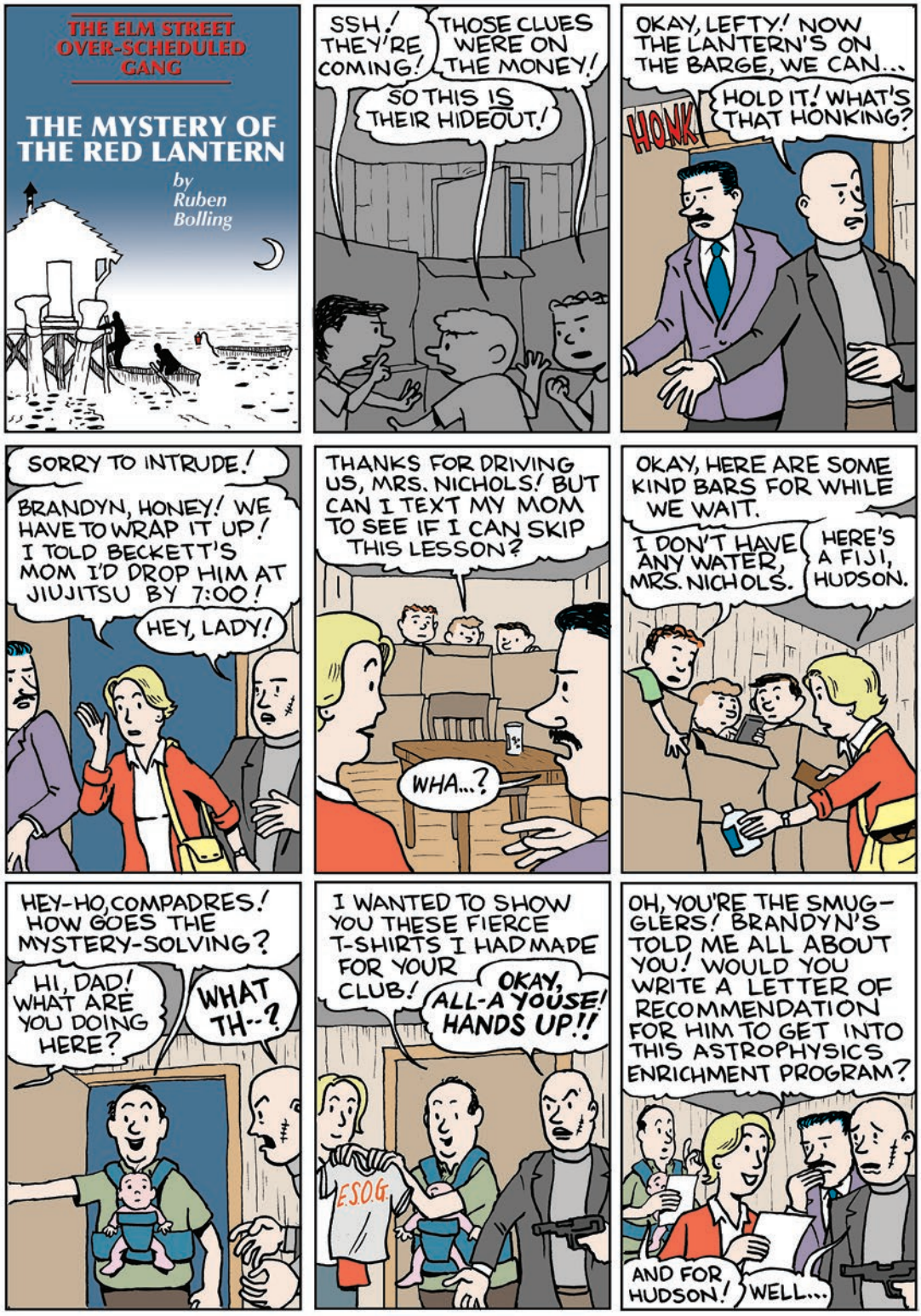
WHALES



The largest animal that has ever existed still roams the oceans–the blue whale. The path to such enormity was set when its distant ancestors went back into the water that its even more distant ancestors had clambered out of.

Strips

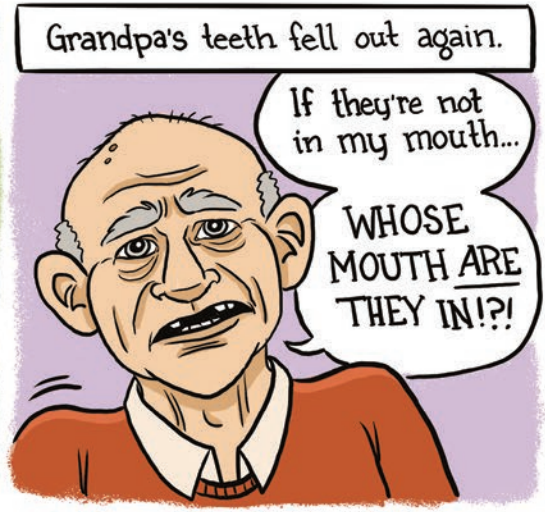
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GO IN WITH YOU, DUDE?
YEAH, I'LL BE OKAY.
GOD, THERE'S A LOT OF PROTESTORS.
IT'S SO DUMB! THIS IS A TOTALLY ROUTINE MEDICAL PROCEDURE!
STAY STRONG, MAN. I'LL BE OUT HERE WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
THINK OF YOUR BABIES!
MASTURBATION IS MURDER!
EVERY SPERM IS SACRED!
LIFE BEGINS AT EJACU-LATION
YOU ARE THE FATHER
UH, HI, I'M HERE TO UH... DONATE MY SPERM.
SORRY ABOUT THE WOMEN OUT THERE. JUST FILL THIS OUT.
BEFORE WE BEGIN THE INVASIVE ULTRASOUND, THE STATE REQUIRES ME TO TALK ABOUT ALL THE FUTURE DREAMS ANY OF YOUR 200 MILLION SPERM MIGHT HAVE HAD.


THE ELM STREET OVER-SCHEDULED GANG
THE MYSTERY OF THE RED LANTERN
by Ruben Bolling
SSH! THEY'RE COMING!
THOSE CLUES WERE ON THE MONEY!
SO THIS IS THEIR HIDEOUT!
OKAY, LEFTY! NOW THE LANTERN'S ON THE BARGE, WE CAN...
HONK
HOLD IT! WHAT'S THAT HONKING?
SORRY TO INTRUDE!
BRANDYN, HONEY! WE HAVE TO WRAP IT UP! I TOLD BECKETT'S MOM I'D DROP HIM AT JIUJITSU BY 7:00!
HEY, LADY!
THANKS FOR DRIVING US, MRS. NICHOLS! BUT CAN I TEXT MY MOM TO SEE IF I CAN SKIP THIS LESSON?
WHA...?
OKAY, HERE ARE SOME KIND BARS FOR WHILE WE WAIT.
I DON'T HAVE ANY WATER, MRS. NICHOLS.
HERE'S A FIJI, HUDSON.
HEY-HO, COMPADRES! HOW GOES THE MYSTERY-SOLVING?
HI, DAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT TH--?
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THESE FIERCE T-SHIRTS I HAD MADE FOR YOUR CLUB!
OKAY, ALL-A YOUSE! HANDS UP!!
E.S.O.G.
OH, YOU'RE THE SMUGGLERS! BRANDYN'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU! WOULD YOU WRITE A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR HIM TO GET INTO THIS ASTROPHYSICS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM?
AND FOR HUDSON!
WELL...

FIVE-ALARM KANE FAMILY EMERGENCIES

by Nomi Kane

One of the dogs peed on the couch.
How could you, YOU ANIMALS?!


Grandpa's teeth fell out again.
If they're not in my mouth...
WHOSE MOUTH ARE THEY IN!?!

You're not wearing appropriate shoes.
You're wearing THOSE on a hike?!
WHO RAISED YOU?!?

There's a squirrel in the backyard.
WOOF
GRR
RUF
WO

There's a line at our favorite brunch place.
GOODBYE, CRUEL WORLD!
WHY, GOD?!
Haven't we suffered enough?!?
NOMI KANE '18

Comic Ideas My Dad Keeps Telling Me to Draw (You're Welcome, Dad)

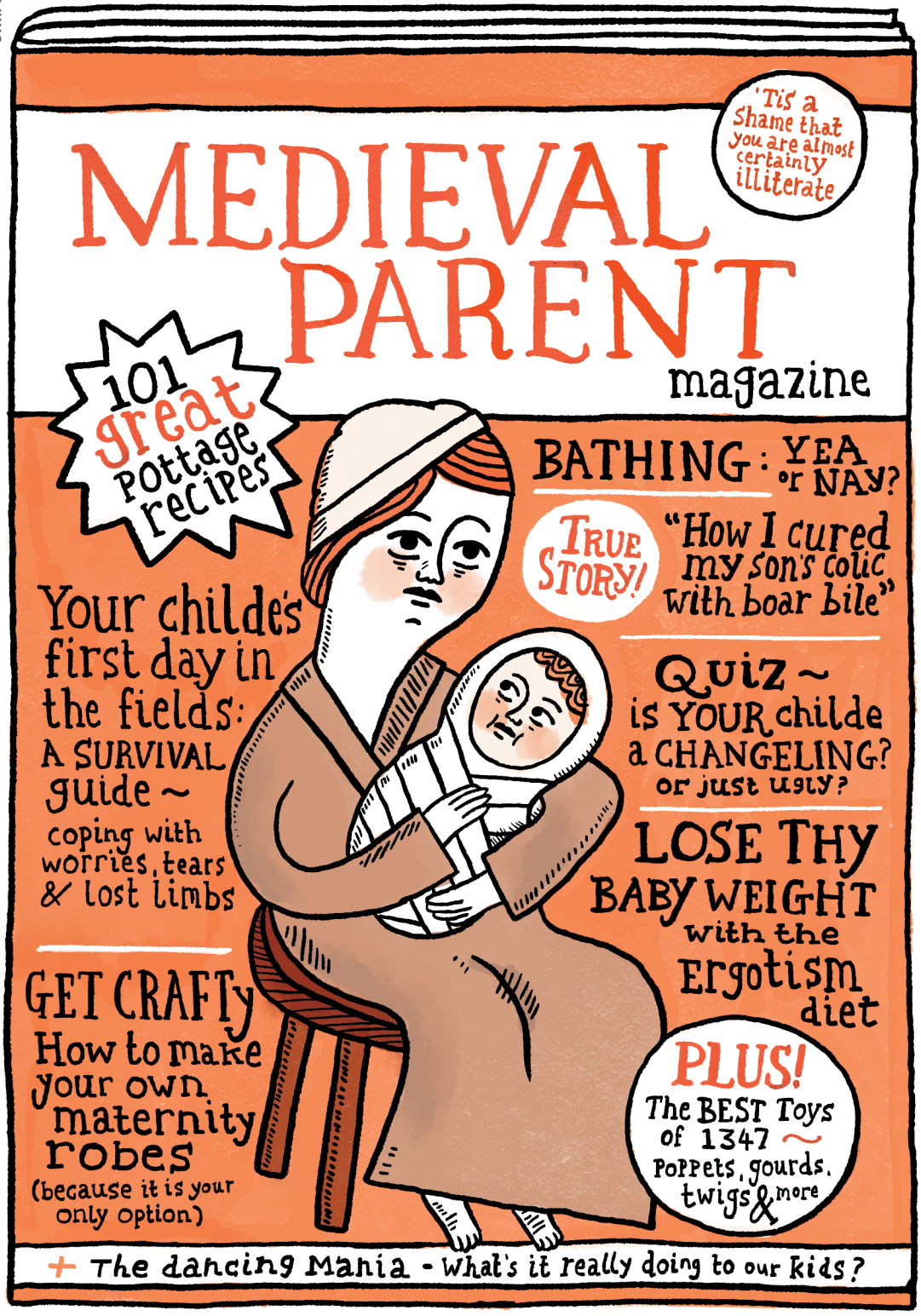
IT'S SO NOT FAIR.
IVANKA GETS ALL THIS SECONDARY SCANDAL PUBLICITY AND I CAN'T EVEN GET HIGHLIGHTS MAGAZINE TO REPORT ON MY INCREDIBLE LUNCH-TIME ESCAPADES.
YES! ERIC KNOW THAT FEEL.
DON JUNIOR NO EAT FACES OF DAD'S ENEMIES LIKE ERIC!
BUT DON JUNIOR STILL IS FAVORITE SON.

I HAVE AN IDEA! WHAT IF WE MURDER IVANKA AND JUNIOR?
THEN WHEN DAD CROAKS, WE INHERIT AMERICA!
IS GOOD PLAN BUT ERIC SCARED OF GETTING CAUGHT.

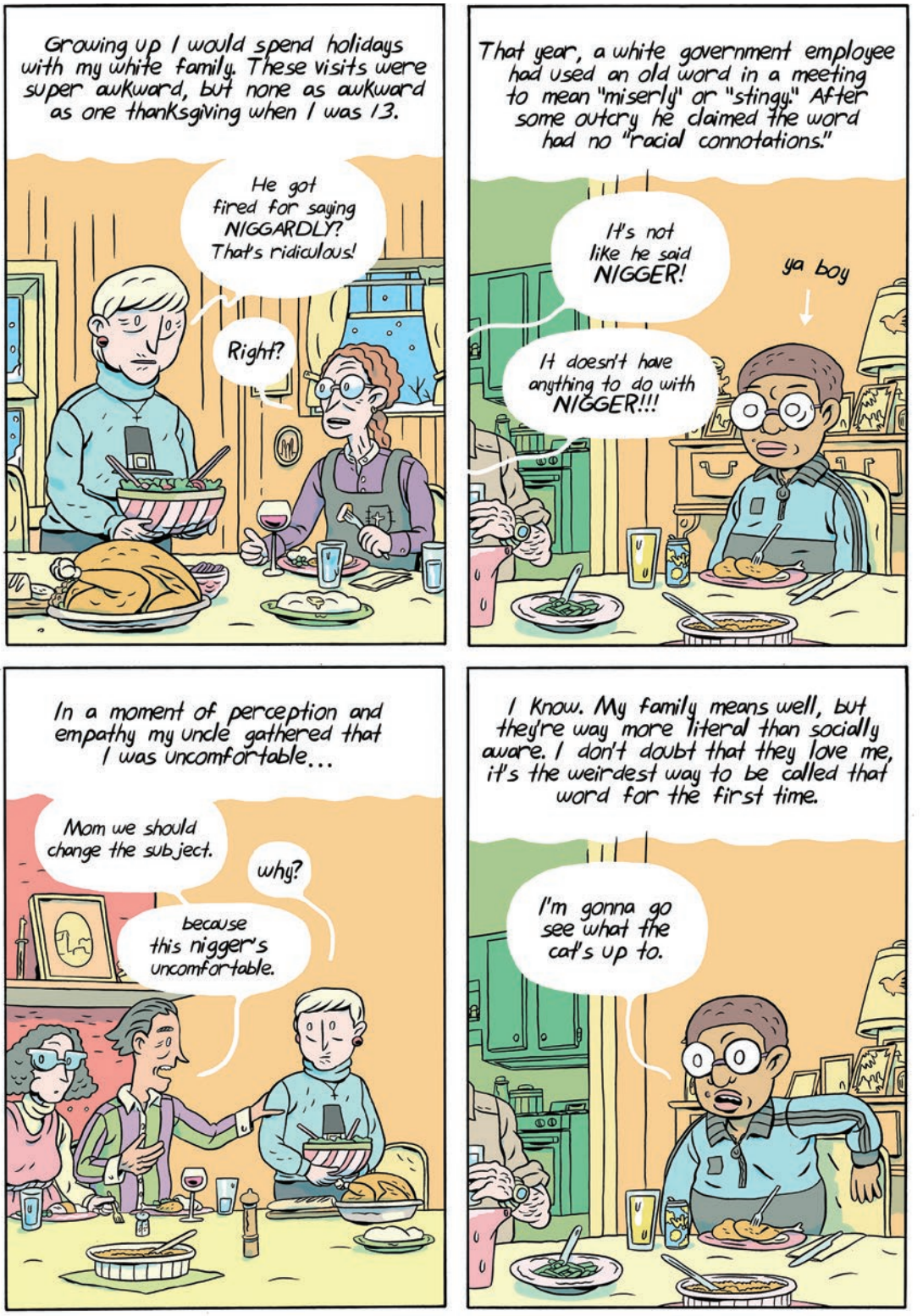
LET'S GET BARRON!
YEAH! HE HATE EVERY-THING.
BARRON! COME TO ERIC NOW OR ERIC EAT BARRON FACE.

PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME BE IN MY CRYING PLACE.
BARRON, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO INHERIT ALL OF THE DEBT FROM DADDY'S SHAM COMPANIES?
Sadness box
SHAME

IS DEBT GOOD?
WELL, THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY.
SOME DAY YOU CAN PASS THAT DEBT ON TO YOUR CHILDREN.
Sadness box


'Tis a shame that you are almost certainly illiterate
MEDIEVAL PARENT
magazine
101 great pottage recipes
BATHING: YEA or NAY?
TRUE STORY!
"How I cured my son's colic with boar bile"
Your childe's first day in the fields: A SURVIVAL guide ~ coping with worries, tears & lost limbs
QUIZ ~ is YOUR childe a CHANGELING? or just ugly?
LOSE THY BABY WEIGHT with the Ergotism diet
GET CRAFTY How to make your own maternity robes (because it is your only option)
PLUS! The BEST Toys of 1347 ~ Poppets, gourds, twigs & more
+ The dancing Mania - What's it really doing to our kids?

I am 100% sure I don't want kids. I don't even like kids.
I just think I probably wouldn't be a great dad.
I mean, kids are fine, but I think I don't really need to have them.
Working with kids is the best part of my job. Kids are pretty cool.
I actually think I'd probably be an okay mom.
I can't imagine life without kids.
joey alison sayers


Growing up I would spend holidays with my white family. These visits were super awkward, but none as awkward as one thanksgiving when I was 13.
He got fired for saying NIGGARDLY? That's ridiculous!
Right?
That year, a white government employee had used an old word in a meeting to mean "miserly" or "stingy." After some outcry he claimed the word had no "racial connotations."
It's not like he said NIGGER!
ya boy
It doesn't have anything to do with NIGGER!!!
In a moment of perception and empathy my uncle gathered that I was uncomfortable...
Mom we should change the subject.
why?
because this nigger's uncomfortable.
I know. My family means well, but they're way more literal than socially aware. I don't doubt that they love me, it's the weirdest way to be called that word for the first time.
I'm gonna go see what the cat's up to.

IN THESE TIMES

AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE, **EVERY MONTH**

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Illustration by Terry LaBan

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Illustration by Cassey Kuo

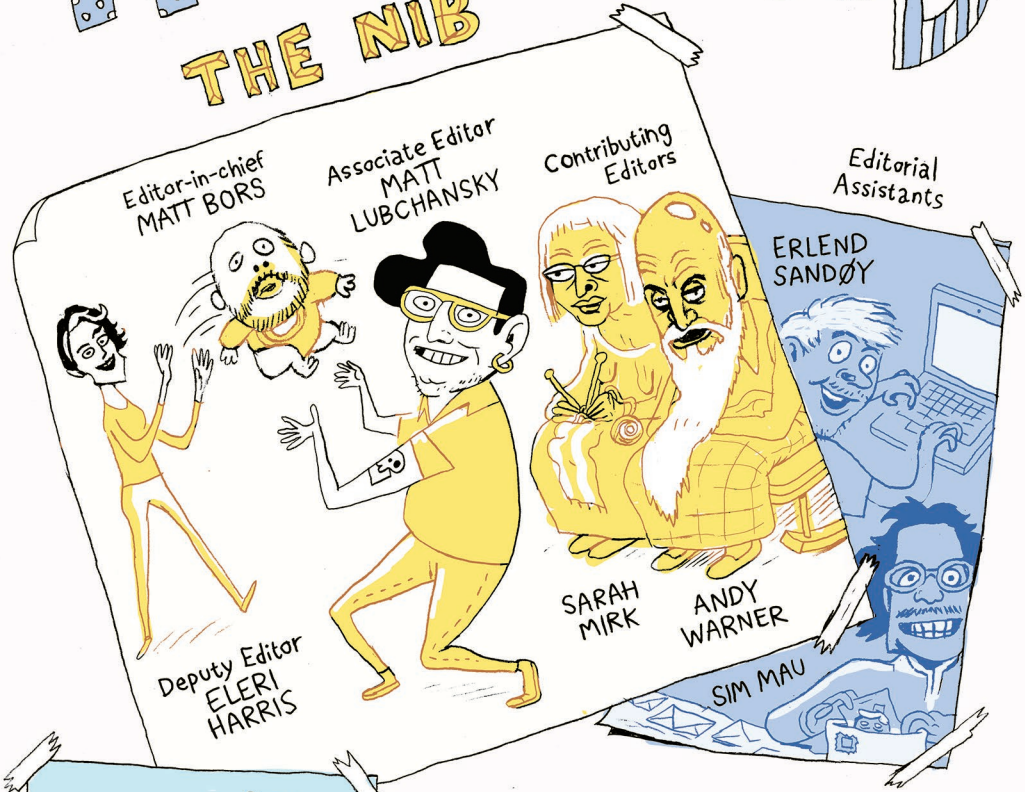
Letters to the Editor

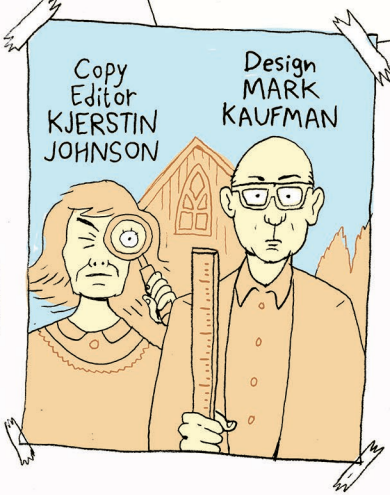
Drawn by Sim Mau

If you can't name the black sheep in your family, chances are it's you. But don't worry, being an outcast can be a point of pride. We asked The Nib*'s Inkwell members to tell us about the black sheep in their family.*

MASTHEAD

THE NIB





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Nib Comics

CONTRIBUTORS

JILLIAN TAMAKI's dad is a tax accountant. Her most recent published work is They Say Blue, a picture book.

BEN PASSMORE's mom still puts his drawings on the fridge. He lives in Philly.

SARAH GLIDDEN lives in Brooklyn with her husband and baby son and wonders if she will ever have an adult conversation about something other than parenting ever again.

MIKE DAWSON lives in fear of having to manage playdates. He's a cartoonist and regular contributor to *The Nib*.

CHELSEA SAUNDERS inherited creativity (and seasonal allergies) from her parents. She's a freelance illustrator.

RYAN DEVEREAUX's parents raised him on rodeos and bicycles. He's a staff writer at *The Intercept*.

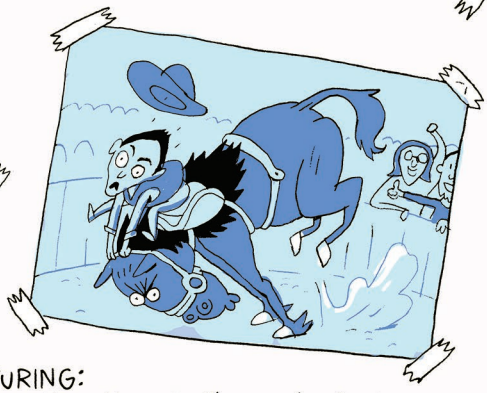

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Illustration by Erlend Sandøy

The Inkwell Hall of Fame

These especially generous members help make this publication possible. We depend on our membership to survive. We're assuming The Nib*'s invitation to Thanksgiving was lost in the mail.* ***Illustrated by Matt Lubchansky.***

Grant McAvaney

Alan Dunn

Chris Ropko

Marcy & Andrew Bartel

IN THIS ISSUE:

A town overrun by twins, the price tag of pregnancy, growing up in a cult, redefining queer families, a genetic history of madness, family feuds, immortal cells, AND MORE!

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